

Obama Prepping For Mideast Visit

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Monday, just days ahead of his Mideast trip, met with about 10 leaders of Arab-American groups who encouraged him to deliver a message of hope to the Palestinian people even



President Barack Obama speaks in the White House in Washington.
(AP Photo/P. Monsivais)

if he is unable to immediately deliver a peace plan with Israel.

Obama met with the officials Monday, four days after meeting with Jewish leaders as part of his preparation for the visit.

The White House has not publicly announced the dates for the trip. Israeli news media have reported Obama will arrive on March 20. Obama will also make stops in Ramallah and Jordan.

In a statement, participants said they offered Obama "recommendations for the vital message that he should convey to the Palestinian people."

Jim Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute and one of the participants, said Obama would not have the opportunity to make a speech to the Palestinian people.

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NYC Soda Ban Fizzles

Protester Eric Moore sips on an extra-large beverage to protest Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposal to prohibit licensed food establishments from using containers larger than 16 ounces to serve high-calorie drinks at City Hall in New York.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

Judge blocks Bloomberg's ban on sugary drinks

MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM
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NEW YORK — A judge invalidated New York City's ban on large sugary drinks on Monday, one day before it was to go into effect, dealing Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg a major blow.

The decision by Justice Milton A. Tingling Jr. of state Supreme Court in Manhattan blocks the city from putting the rules into effect or enforcing them.

Tingling said the rule banning the drinks was "arbi-

trary and capricious."

In his opinion, Tingling specifically cited a perceived inequity in the soda rules, which applies to only certain sugared drinks — beverages with a high milk content, for instance, would be exempt — and would apply only to some food establishments, like restaurants, but not others, like convenience stores.

"It applies to some but not all food establishments in the city," Tingling wrote. "It excludes other beverage-

es that have significantly higher concentrations of sugar sweeteners and/or calories."

Tingling also wrote that the fact that consumers can receive refills of sodas, as long as the cup size is not larger than 16 ounces, would "defeat and/or serve to gut the purpose the rule."

He also appeared to be skeptical of the purview of the city's Board of Health, which the Bloomberg administration had main-

tained has broad powers to seek to better the public's health. That interpretation, the judge wrote, "would leave its authority to define, create, mandate and enforce limited only by its own imagination," and "create an administrative Leviathan."

After the judge imposed a stop to the ban, the Bloomberg administration quickly said it would challenge the decision.

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Insider attack kills 2 U.S. troops, 2 Afghans

AMIR SHAH
HEIDI VOGT

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A police officer opened fire on U.S. and Afghan forces at a police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, sparking

In Monday's attack, an Afghan police officer stood up in the back of a police pickup truck, grabbed a machine gun and started firing at a U.S. special operations forces-led team and Afghan policemen in the police compound in Jalrez

officers for questioning, Koraishi said.

Karzai ordered U.S. special operations forces to leave Wardak province, just outside the Afghan capital, because of allegations that Afghans working with the U.S. commandos were



U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, center, walks from a blackhawk helicopter to his military transport aircraft in Kabul, Afghanistan Monday, March 11, 2013. Hagel rejected any suggestions that the United States is in collusion with the Taliban in Afghanistan with the goal of making Afghans fearful of more violence if foreign troops leave as scheduled next year.

(AP Photo/Jason Reed)

a firefight that killed two U.S. troops and two other Afghan policemen. The attacker was also killed in the shootout, officials said.

In a second incident, outside Kabul, U.S. troops fired on a truck approaching their military convoy, killing two Afghan men inside.

The shooting in the eastern Wardak province was the latest in a series of insider attacks against coalition and Afghan forces that have threatened to undermine their alliance at a time when cooperation would aid the planned handover of security responsibility to local forces next year.

The attack also comes a day after the expiration of the Afghan president's deadline for U.S. special forces to withdraw from the province.

U.S. officials have said that they are working with Afghan counterparts to answer President Hamid Karzai's concerns and maintain security in Wardak. Most of the U.S. troops in Wardak are special operations forces.

district, said the province's Deputy Police Chief Abdul Razaq Koraishi. Two U.S. special operations soldiers and two Afghan policemen were killed and four others were wounded in the gunfight before the assailant was gunned down, Koraishi said.

It is unclear whether the assailant was targeting the Afghan policemen along with the U.S. special operations forces and whether they were killed by the assailant's bullets or during the crossfire.

The U.S. military said in a statement that two American service members were killed in the shooting. A U.S. defense official in Washington and a coalition official in Afghanistan said 10 Americans — both special operators and regular soldiers who worked in a combined team — and at least 12 Afghans were wounded in the attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the attack with reporters. U.S. forces were holding five Afghan police

involved in abusive behavior. Karzai gave them two weeks to leave, and the deadline expired Sunday.

On Sunday, Karzai accused U.S. forces of working with the Taliban to stage two suicide bombings over the weekend during the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

In a speech, Karzai said the Americans want to scare Afghans into allowing them to stay.

That brought a sharp rebuke from the U.S. ambassador Monday, as news of the insider attack in Wardak emerged.

"The thought that we would collude with the Taliban flies in the face of everything we have done here and is absolutely without foundation," Ambassador James Cunningham said in a statement. "It is inconceivable that we would spend the lives of America's sons, daughters, and our treasure, in helping Afghans to secure and rebuild their country, and at the same time be engaged in endangering Afghanistan or its citizens." □

AROUND THE WORLD

Last anti-Chavez TV station to be sold

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The only remaining pro-opposition television channel in Venezuela, Globovision, is being sold to an insurance company owner friendly with the government, employees told The Associated Press on Monday. They said its editorial line is sure to change and that many journalists sobbed when informed of the sale, certain some would lose their jobs. The sale will occur after April 14 elections, which Nicolas Maduro is highly favored to win, they said. International human rights and press freedom groups have accused Chavez and his political heirs of trying to strangle Globovision financially by inventing alleged transgressions. □

Libya: 51 die from homemade alcohol

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's Health Minister says 51 people have died over the past three days from drinking homemade alcohol that contained poisonous methanol. Minister Nouri Doghman says another 330 people were injured from the alcohol since Saturday. He said Monday that some were blinded, while others went into comas or suffered kidney failure. He says that Algerians and Tunisians are among the dead. The sale and consumption of alcohol is banned in the conservative North African country. Like illegal drugs elsewhere, some Libyans turn to black market dealers to buy alcohol, which is often cooked in people's homes or deserted farms.

EU pressures Iran for rights violations

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is tightening sanctions against Iran, concerned about alleged violations of human rights in the country. EU foreign ministers, meeting Monday in Brussels, added nine people they said were "responsible for serious human rights violations" to the list of those subject to a travel ban and an asset freeze, bringing the number of people sanctioned in this way to 87. The foreign ministers also decided to freeze the assets of one "entity," meaning a company or organization. The names of those sanctioned will be published Tuesday. Iran carried out at least 55 public executions in 2012, U.N. spokeswoman Cecile Pouilly has said. □

Mexican paper says no drug coverage

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The newspaper Zocalo, printed in the Mexico border state of Coahuila, announced Monday it will no longer cover information related to drug cartels, citing safety concerns. In a front-page editorial posted on its web site, the newspaper said the decision "is based on our responsibility to watch out for the safety and security of over 1,000 workers, their families and our own." The decision came after a printed banner of the kind frequently used by drug cartels was found last week with a message threatening a violent reprisal against the paper's director. The banner was signed by "42," a reference to a top member of the Zetas drug gang. □

Fighters try, execute al-Qaida militant

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A member of a militant group in Yemen's south says residents in the town of Jaar tried and executed a man suspected of carrying out a deadly attack for al-Qaida last year. The local militants, known as Popular Committees, fought alongside Yemen's military to kick al-Qaida out of their towns last year. Its members have come since under attack. A fighter in Jaar, who spoke anonymously for fear of retribution, said Monday his comrades executed 45-year-old Khaled Bathur for an attack last August that killed more than 40 people during a funeral for a fellow Popular Committee fighter. □

Conclave to elect next pope opens amid uncertainty

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Cardinals enter the Sistine Chapel on Tuesday to elect the next pope amid more upheaval and uncertainty than the Catholic Church has seen in decades: There's no front-runner, no indication how long voting will last and no sense that a single man has what it takes to fix the many problems.

On the eve of the vote, cardinals offered wildly different assessments of what they're looking for in the next pontiff and how close they are to a decision.

It was evidence that Benedict XVI's surprise resignation has continued to destabilize the church leadership and that his final appeal for unity may go unheeded, at least in the early rounds of voting.

Cardinals held their final closed-door debate Monday over whether the church needs more of a manager to clean up the Vatican's bureaucratic mess or a pastor to inspire the 1.2 billion faithful in times of crisis.

The fact that not everyone got a chance to speak was a clear sign that there's still

unfinished business on the eve of the conclave.

"This time around, there are many different candidates, so it's normal that

ed a storm of chatter over who's ahead.

The buzz in the papal stakes swirled around Cardinal Angelo Scola, an

those seeking to reform the nerve center of the church that has been discredited by revelations of leaks and complaints from cardinals

As a non-Italian, the archbishop of Sao Paolo would be expected to name an Italian as secretary of state — the Vatican No. 2 who runs day-to-day affairs — another plus for Vatican-based cardinals who would want one of their own running the shop.

The pastoral camp seems to be focusing on two Americans, New York archbishop Timothy Dolan and Boston archbishop Sean O'Malley. Neither has Vatican experience.

Dolan has acknowledged his Italian isn't strong — seen as a handicap for a job in which the lingua franca of day-to-day work is Italian.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet is well-respected, stemming from his job at the important Vatican office that vets bishop appointments.

Less well known is that he has a lovely singing voice and can be heard belting out French folk songs on occasion.

If the leading names fail to reach the 77 votes required for victory in the first few rounds of balloting, any number of surprise candidates could come to the fore as alternatives. □



Two vendors clean their food stand just nearby St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Monday, March 11, 2013. Cardinals have gathered for their final day of talks before the conclave to elect the next pope amid debate over whether the Catholic Church needs a manager pope to clean up the Vatican's messy bureaucracy or a pastoral pope who can inspire the faithful and make Catholicism relevant again.

(AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

it's going to take longer than the last time," Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz of Chile told The Associated Press.

"There are no groups, no compromises, no alliances, just each one with his conscience voting for the person he thinks is best, which is why I don't think it will be over quickly."

None of that has prevented

Italian seen as favored by cardinals hoping to shake up the powerful Vatican bureaucracy, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer, a favorite of Vatican-based insiders intent on preserving the status quo.

Scola is affable and Italian, but not from the Italian-centric Vatican bureaucracy called the Curia. That gives him clout with

in the field that Rome is inefficient and unresponsive to their needs.

Scherer seems to be favored by Latin Americans and the Curia.

He has a solid handle on the Vatican's finances, sitting on the governing commission of the Vatican bank, as well as the Holy See's main budget committee.

Eyes on the skies at Vatican as conclave commences

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The conclave to elect a new pope begins today at the Vatican. The voting process follows a set ritual every day until the Catholic Church has a new leader. Here is an approximate schedule. Local time is listed first.

TUESDAY

— 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m. (5 a.m.-6:45 a.m. EDT; 0900-1045 GMT): Cardinals attend Mass in St Peter's Basilica, then return to their Vatican hotel.

— 3:45 p.m. (10:45 a.m. EDT; 1445 GMT): Cardinals travel from their hotel to the Apostolic Palace.

— 4:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m. EDT; 1530 GMT): Procession from the Pauline Chapel into the Sistine Chapel.



A statue dwarfs the chimney on the roof of the Sistine Chapel where cardinals will gather to elect the new pope during the conclave at the Vatican, Monday, March 11, 2013.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

— 4:45 p.m.-8 p.m. (11:45 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT; 1545-1900 GMT): Each cardinal takes an oath, most likely followed by the first vote. If the vote yields a new pope, white smoke will emerge from the chimney; if not the smoke will be

black.

— 8 p.m. (3 p.m. EDT; 1900 GMT): Cardinals pray in the Sistine Chapel.

— 8:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. EDT; 1930 GMT): Cardinals return to their hotel.

WEDNESDAY AND ONWARD

— 7:45 a.m. (2:45 a.m. EDT;

0645 GMT): Cardinals travel to the Pauline Chapel.

— 8:15 a.m. (3:15 a.m. EDT; 0715 GMT): Mass in the Pauline Chapel.

— 9:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT; 0830 GMT): Prayer in the Sistine Chapel, voting starts.

— 12:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. EDT; 1130 GMT): Cardinals retire to their hotel for lunch.

— 4 p.m. (11 a.m. EDT; 1500 GMT): Cardinals return to the Sistine Chapel.

— 4:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m. EDT; 1540 GMT): Voting in the Sistine Chapel.

— 7:15 p.m. (2:15 p.m. EDT; 1815 GMT): Prayer in the Sistine Chapel.

— 7:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. EDT; 1830 GMT): Cardinals return to their hotel.

PAUSES

After every three full days of voting, the cardinals

break for a day of prayer and reflection, then resume for another three days. The first pause will be on Saturday if no pope has been selected before that.

THE SMOKE

Smoke will emerge from the chimney once at the end of the morning session — about 12 p.m. (7 a.m. EDT; 1100 GMT) — and again at the end of the afternoon session — about 7 p.m. (2 p.m. EDT; 1800 GMT). But if an earlier vote yields a pope, white smoke would emerge at that time, ending the conclave.

Once white smoke emerges from the chimney, a bell at the St. Peter's Basilica rings. Within an hour, the man who was selected emerges onto the balcony and his identity is known. □

Obama meets Arab-Americans ahead of Mideast trip

Continued from front

"But there are opportunities for him to say things that get into the public discourse about America's commitment to them, about America's understanding of their situation," he said. Following the meeting, the White House said Obama told the group that his trip was not meant to resolve a specific policy issue, but that it was an opportunity for Obama to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the Palestinian people.

Obama told them he intends to reiterate the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and to discuss regional concerns — including Syria — with Jordan's leadership, the White House said.

The meeting took place in the West Wing's Roosevelt Room, just steps away from the Oval Office. Parti-

One participant in the meeting, who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations, said



President Barack Obama walks with Chief of Staff Denis McDonough as they leave the Gridiron Dinner through a loading area at a hotel in Washington.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

pants said that in addition to Obama, members of his national security team and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett also participated.

he got the impression that Obama was treating his Mideast visit as an "exploratory trip." He said both sides emphasized the

need for follow-up after the trip to ensure momentum doesn't fade away. Warren David, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said he left with a "bittersweet feeling." "But more sweet than bitter, more optimism," David said. "Many, many Arab-Americans are disappointed. Many voted for the president — more than ever before — because they felt this president would move the peace process forward." Zogby added: "I personally don't expect that he's going to come back with a formula to make everything go away, but the conversation begins and we want to be part of that conversation. Bringing us in was an important start." In his meeting last week

with Jewish leaders, Obama downplayed expectations for the trip, saying he did not intend to deliver "grand peace plan." But according to one participant in that session, Obama said he could still initiate such an effort in coming months. In their joint statement Monday, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine, the American Task Force for Palestine and the Arab American Institute said, "The United States, through sustained, balanced, constructive engagement, can facilitate a peaceful, lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—a resolution that is essential to long-term security in the Middle East." □

Owner says SUV in fatal Ohio crash was stolen

Associated Press

WARREN, Ohio (AP) — Investigators Monday tried to piece together what eight teenagers crammed into an allegedly stolen SUV were up to before the vehicle flipped over into a pond, killing six of them.

Authorities gave few details on where the group of friends had been and why they were out around daybreak Sunday, speeding down a two-lane road. On Monday, the SUV's owner met with police and filed a stolen-car report; police said none of the teens were related to the owner or had asked to use the vehicle.

While the father of one of the dead said the teenagers were coming home from a sleepover at a friend's house, the mother of another boy killed said that her son and his best friend had lied about staying over at each other's homes that evening. She said she thinks they went to a party.

"If only he had listened," said Lisa Williamson, mother of 14-year-old Brandon Murray. "I told him, 'Don't you go nowhere.' But they're kids."

The SUV hit a guardrail in an industrial section of town and landed upside down in about 5 feet of water, filling up within minutes, State Highway Patrol Lt. Brian Holt. Five boys and a young woman, ages 14 to 19, were killed.

Two boys smashed a rear window, wriggled out of the wreckage and swam away, then ran a quarter-mile to a home to call 911, authorities said. Brian Henry, 18, and Asher Lewis, 15, suffered only minor injuries. Investigators said they believe excessive speed was a key factor in the crash, which took place in a 35 mph zone alongside a steel mill near what's known in the neighborhood as "Dead Man's Curve." Authorities did not say how fast the SUV was going. They were also awaiting the results of drug and alcohol tests.

All eight teenagers were from Warren, a mostly blue-collar city of 41,000 near the Pennsylvania line, about 60 miles east of Cleveland.

Friends and family members described the teens as good kids who weren't troublemakers. □



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Judge blocks Bloomberg's ban on sugary drinks

Continued from front

"We plan to appeal the decision as soon as possible, and we are confident the Board of Health's decision will ultimately be upheld," Michael A. Cardozo, the Bloomberg administration's chief counsel, said in a statement.

"We believe the Board of Health has the legal authority – and responsibility – to tackle" the causes of obesity. The ruling stunned the Bloomberg administration, which was deep into preparations to begin enforcing the ban and had even boasted on Monday that it should be taken nationally as a remedy to rising obesity rates.

Bloomberg had scheduled a news conference for Tuesday morning to celebrate the inauguration of the new rule, at which he would stand with lawmakers who supported the initiative, according to a person told of the plans.

At a news conference on Monday, hours before the ruling, Bloomberg predicted



New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, right, speaks at a news conference in New York, March 11, 2013. A judge invalidated New York City's limits on large sugary drinks on Monday, one day before they were to go into effect, dealing a significant blow to one of Bloomberg's signature public health initiatives and a marquee project of his third term.

(Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times)

ed little resistance to the measure. "I think you're not going to see a lot of push-back here at all," he said. "I think everybody across this country should do it."

During hearings in Tlingling's courtroom over the past few months in which he considered a challenge to the ban, lawyers for the beverage industry, which was represented by the

high-powered corporate firm Latham & Watkins, presented an argument of high dudgeon, calling the rules "ludicrous." At one point, James E. Brandt, the lead lawyer for the indus-

try, described the regulation as created by "scientists in the room, working with the mayor, creating a regulation here that is going to cost people a ton of money."

In contrast, lawyers for the Bloomberg administration offered a subdued, highly technical rebuttal that only occasionally addressed the broader rationale for the rule, which they said would fight obesity in the city. One city lawyer, who mumbled his words, was asked by the court reporter at one point to repeat his points because she could not hear him.

A trade group for the city's movie theaters was quick to hail the decision on Monday.

"Serious problems like obesity cannot be addressed by the imposition of an arbitrary and porous Mayoral fiat," wrote Matthew Greller, a spokesman for the National Association of Theatre Owners of New York State. "This issue was never about obesity, nor about soda. This was all about power." □

US Navy: 3 dead in military plane crash

N. K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Washington (AP)

— A U.S. Navy aircraft from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island crashed in Washington state on Monday morning, and all three crew members on board died, authorities said.

The E/A-6B Prowler was reported to have crashed at about 8:45 a.m. local time Monday, Whidbey Island officials said.

The Navy informed Congress that the wingman of the crashed plane reported that no parachutes were deployed.

"First responders are on the scene and have reported finding partial remains of the mishap aircrew," the Navy informed Congress. "All three onboard are presumed dead."

The identities of the crew were not immediately available.

The Prowler was "engaged in a low-level navigation training mission," the Navy told Congress.

Whidbey Island officials said the cause of the accident was under investigation. NAS Whidbey Island is home to the U.S. Navy's tactical electronic warfare squadrons. Crews from the base, located on Puget Sound, regularly fly across Eastern Washington for training exercises.

The crash occurred in a rural area in the eastern part of the state. Aerial views of the crash site showed a large crater in a farm field, surrounded by blackened vegetation. Much of the plane appeared to have disintegrated on impact.

"You could see smoke and bits of plane in the middle of the field," local resident HaLee Walter told KREM-TV after visiting the crash site. □

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Ex-Detroit mayor convicted, jailed until sentence

ED WHITE

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A jury convicted Detroit's former mayor Monday of corruption charges and then sent him to jail to await his prison sentence in yet another dramatic setback for a man who once was among the youngest U.S. big-city leaders.

Jurors convicted Kwame Kilpatrick of a raft of crimes, including racketeering conspiracy, which carries a maximum punishment of 20 years behind bars. He was portrayed during a five-month trial as an unscrupulous politician who took bribes, rigged contracts and lived far beyond his means while in office until 2008.

Kilpatrick wore a surprised, puzzled look at times as U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds read the jury's verdict: guilty of 24 charges, not guilty on three and no consensus on three more. Kilpatrick declined to speak to reporters as he left the courthouse.

Four hours later, he was handcuffed and led to jail after prosecutors asked the judge to revoke his bond. Edmunds said it was a "close call" but agreed that the scale under federal law tipped in favor of the government.

The trial occurred at a time

of extraordinary crisis in Detroit. Population has fallen 25 percent to 700,000 since 2000. Public finances are a mess and are in the red for billions of dollars, mostly

sent evidence to show he got a share of the spoils after ensuring that Bobby Ferguson's excavating company was awarded millions in work from the

Internal Revenue Service agents said Kilpatrick spent \$840,000 beyond his mayoral salary.

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade hailed the verdict



Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick leaves federal court after being convicted Monday, March 11, 2013, in Detroit, of corruption charges, ensuring a return to prison for a man once among the nation's youngest big-city leaders.

(AP Photo/David Coates)

future pension obligations. Half of property owners are overdue with their property taxes. Meanwhile, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder could appoint an emergency financial manager in a matter of days, making Detroit the largest city in the country to fail and be taken over by state government.

Prosecutors said Kilpatrick ran a "private profit machine" out of Detroit's City Hall. The government pre-

water department.

Business owners said they were forced to hire Ferguson as a subcontractor or risk losing city contracts. Separately, fundraiser Emma Bell said she gave Kilpatrick more than \$200,000 as his personal cut of political donations, pulling cash from her bra during private meetings. A high-ranking aide, Derrick Miller, told jurors that he often was the middle man, passing bribes from others.

and said Kilpatrick was "grabbing money from the citizens he was elected to serve."

Mayor Dave Bing said the verdict would allow the city to move on from "this negative chapter in Detroit's history."

It's "time for all of us to move forward with a renewed commitment to transparency and high ethical standards in our city government," Bing said in a statement. □

NRA Gun lobby steps up efforts in Connecticut

SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut

(AP) — The powerful National Rifle Association helped bus hundreds of supporters to the Connecticut Capitol on Monday, the latest sign of its stepped-up presence in a state where an elementary school massacre of 20 children jolted a fierce national debate over gun control.

The NRA decided a week ago to help organize a lobby day after Gov. Dannel P. Malloy released his package of gun control proposals and a bipartisan legislative panel unveiled competing gun violence recommendations from Democrats and Republicans, said John Hohenwarter, an NRA state liaison.

Legislative leaders are considering those recommendations and others as they try to draft a bipartisan bill for the full General Assembly to consider, likely later this month. The leaders met behind closed doors Monday as the gun rights supporters descended on the Capitol.

While states like New York have rushed to toughen gun laws, others in the country's conservative heartland, where guns are seen as part of the solution to gun violence, have loosed their gun laws.

Tougher gun laws are far from a sure thing in Connecticut, a small liberal-leaning northeastern state with plenty of gun owners in its small towns.

Since the shooting, which left 20 first-graders and six educators dead, the NRA had not been particularly visible in Connecticut until Monday. Hohenwarter said the group has hired two lobbyists for this year's legislative session but has followed the debate from behind the scenes, working with lawmakers and keeping a low public profile.

Dom Basile, a firearms instructor from Watertown. □

Judge OKs meds for rampage suspect Holmes

DAN ELLIOTT

P. S. BANDA

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The defendant in a Colorado movie theater massacre could be given "truth serum" under a court order issued Monday to help determine whether he is insane if he pleads not guilty by reason of insanity. Suspect James Holmes could be required to submit to a "narcoanalytic interview" as part of an evaluation to determine if he was legally insane at the time of the July 20 shootings, Arapahoe County District Judge William Sylvester said.

A narcoanalytic interview is a decades-old process in which patients are given

drugs to lower their inhibition. Academic studies have shown that the technique has involved the use of sodium amytal and pentothal, sometimes called truth serum.

Holmes, 25, is scheduled to enter a plea on Tuesday to multiple counts of murder and attempted murder. He is charged with killing 12 people and injuring 70 at a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" in the Denver suburb of Aurora. If Holmes pleads not guilty by reason of insanity, he would be examined by doctors at the state mental hospital.

The prospect of a narcoanalytic interview that may

ensue under such a plea alarmed defense attorneys, who filed documents opposing the technique. In an advisory that Holmes would have to sign if he enters an insanity plea, Sylvester didn't specify what type of drugs would be used but said the examination could include "medically appropriate" ones.

Sylvester said Holmes also could be given a polygraph examination as part of the evaluation.

After reading a draft of the advisory, Holmes' lawyers objected to the possibility of both a narcoanalytic interview and a polygraph, saying they would violate their client's rights.

In the final version of the advisory, Sylvester said he had incorporated some suggestions from the defense and the prosecution, but he did not address the defense objections to a narcoanalytic interview and polygraph.

Karen Steinhauser, a former prosecutor who is a law professor at the University of Denver and a defense attorney, said she could not find any case law about use of the narcoanalytic interview.

"It comes up so rarely," she said, adding she knows nothing about it.

She noted the technique is clearly allowed by Colorado law. □

Plan to lease land at housing projects stirs concern

MIREYA NAVARRO

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — When Hassan Adam was growing up in public housing on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, his playground was a nearby recreational yard in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, where residents have long played basketball and neighbors hold an annual “family day.”

But soon, that patch of asphalt at the Alfred E. Smith Houses could be replaced by market-rate apartment buildings. And tenants like Adam, 37, said they feared what could come next.

“They’ll make our buildings condos,” he said. “They’re trying to move us.”

The New York City Housing Authority, facing one of the most serious financial shortfalls in its history, is for the first time making a major push to lease open land on the grounds of its housing projects to developers

to generate revenue.

The authority wants to raise more than \$50 million a year on long-term leases for parks, courtyards, parking lots, playgrounds and other property, seeking to address a \$6 billion backlog of repairs.

But the plan has stirred deep concern, if not paranoia, among tenants who have been warily eying gentrification in one of the nation’s most expensive housing markets. The proposal is initially directed at eight housing projects in Manhattan near the waterfront and other prime areas where real estate values have jumped.

The authority has repeatedly told tenants that it has no plans to sell buildings themselves, and that no public housing tenant will be displaced by the new policy.

Still, in a city that teems with real estate anxieties,



Local residents voice their concerns at a meeting discussing the New York City Housing Authority’s plans for private development inside public housing projects, in New York, Feb. 12, 2013.

(Marcus Yam/The New York Times)

the tenants harbor their own.

“There’s always an ongoing rumor that Trump is going to buy the buildings,” said Damaris Reyes, 41, a community organizer on the Lower East Side who lives in the Baruch Houses. The plan has not yet been formally adopted by the authority’s board, and ap-

proval by the federal government is also required.

Furthermore, it is not clear whether developers will flock to lease land for market-rate buildings so close to public housing.

Some public housing advocates acknowledged that the city had few options as it confronts a sharp drop in federal aid — a to-

tal of more than \$1.5 billion since 2001.

“It’s a tough choice because the money would support the rest of the system,” said Edward Josephson, director of litigation with Legal Services NYC. “If you keep the parking lot and the rest of the project falls into pieces, that’s worse.” □

Halliburton exec testifies at New Orleans Gulf spill trial

M. KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An executive from the company that was BP’s cement contractor on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig testified Monday that he learned of some “irregularities” in tests that the contractor’s employees performed after the massive 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Timothy Probert, a Halliburton president who served as the company’s chief safety officer at the time of the spill, didn’t specify the nature of those irregularities during his testimony at a trial designed to assign fault to the companies involved in the deadly disaster.

However, an attorney for rig owner Transocean Ltd. asked Probert if he was angry when he learned in 2012 that “evidence had been destroyed.”

“Yes,” Probert said. “Obviously, it doesn’t make you feel happy.”

A plaintiffs’ attorney who questioned Probert earlier Monday claimed Hallibur-

ton employees conducted “off-the-record” cement tests and didn’t write down some test results because they feared how they could affect litigation spawned by the nation’s worst offshore oil spill.

In a December 2011 court filing, BP accused Halliburton of intentionally destroying evidence from its cement testing. BP said Halliburton employee Rickey Morgan analyzed a cement slurry with the same composition as the foam slurry that was pumped at the Macondo well and verbally reported the results to a supervisor in 2010.

“He testified that the slurry ‘looked thin,’ which he explained implied lower-than-expected viscosity, a property that reflects how stable the slurry is when mixed and pumped into the well,” BP attorneys wrote. “Significantly and remarkably, Mr. Morgan admitted under oath that he ‘threw out’ the slurry samples he tested because he was ‘worried about’ those materials ‘being misinterpreted in the litigation.’” □

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North Korea says it cancels 1953 Korean War armistice

FOSTER KLUG
HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A state-run newspaper in North Korea said Monday the communist country had carried out a threat to cancel the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War, following days of increased tensions over its latest nuclear test.

A U.N. spokesman said later in the day, however, that North Korea cannot unilaterally dissolve the armistice. North Korea also followed through on another promise: It shut down a Red Cross hotline that the North and South Korea used for general communication and to discuss aid shipments and separated families' reunions.

Enraged over the South's current joint military drills with the United States and last week's U.N. sanctions imposed on Pyongyang for its Feb. 12 nuclear test, North Korea has piled threat on top of threat, including a vow to launch a nuclear strike on the U.S.

Seoul has responded with tough talk of its own and has placed its troops on high alert. Tensions on the divided peninsula have reached their highest level since North Korea rained artillery shells on a South Korean island in 2010. The North Korean government made no formal announcement on its repeated threats to scrap the 60-year-old armistice, but the country's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, reported that the armistice was nullified Monday as Pyongyang had said it would.

The North has threatened

to nullify the armistice several times before, and in 1996 it sent hundreds of armed troops into a border village. The troops later withdrew. Despite the North Korean report, U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said the armistice is still valid and still in force because the armistice agreement had been adopted by the U.N. General Assembly and neither North Korea nor South Korea could dissolve



South Korean Army soldiers work on their K-9 self-propelled artillery vehicle during an exercise against possible attacks by North Korea near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, Monday, March 11, 2013. South Korea and the U.S. on Monday kicked off an annual military drill amid worries about a possible bloodshed following North Korea's threat to scrap a decades-old war armistice and launch a nuclear attack on the U.S.
 (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

it unilaterally. "The terms of the armistice agreement do not allow either side unilaterally to free themselves from it," said Nesirky, the spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ban urged North Korea "to continue to respect the terms of the armistice agreement as it was approved by the General Assembly," Nesirky said, adding that officials at U.N. headquarters in New York were unaware of any operational changes on the ground on the Korean peninsula.

White House spokesman

Jay Carney said the U.S. was "certainly concerned by North Korea's bellicose rhetoric. And the threats that they have been making follow a pattern designed to raise tension and intimidate others."

He added that Pyongyang "will achieve nothing by threats or provocation, which will only further isolate North Korea and undermine international efforts to ensure peace and

president made clear, their transfer of nuclear weapons or nuclear materials to other states or non-state entities. Such actions would be considered a grave threat to the United States and our allies and we will hold North Korea fully accountable for the consequences." Despite the heightened tensions, there were signs of business as usual Monday. The two Koreas continue to have at least two working channels of communication between their militaries and aviation authorities. One of those hotlines was used Monday to give hundreds of South Koreans approval to enter North Korea to go to work. Their jobs are at the only remaining operational symbol of joint cooperation, the Kaesong industrial complex. It is operated in North Korea with South Korean money and know-how and a mostly North Korean workforce.

The 11-day military drills that started Monday involve 10,000 South Korean and about 3,000 U.S. troops. Those coincide with two months of separate U.S.-South Korean field exercises that began March 1. The drills are held annually, and this year, according to South Korean media, the "Key Resolve" drill rehearses different scenarios

for a possible conflict on the Korean peninsula using computer-simulated exercises. The U.S. and South Korean troops will be used to test the scenarios.

Also continuing are large-scale North Korean drills that Seoul says involve the army, navy and air force. The South Korean Defense Ministry said there have been no military activities it considers suspicious.

The North Korean rhetoric escalated as the U.N. Security Council on Thursday approved a new round of sanctions over Pyongyang's nuclear test.

Analysts said that much of the bellicosity is meant to shore up loyalty among citizens and the military for North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un. "This is part of their brinkmanship," said Daniel Pinkston, a Seoul-based expert on North Korea with the International Crisis Group think tank. "It's an effort to signal their resolve, to show they are willing to take greater risks, with the expectation that everyone else caves in and gives them what they want."

Part of what North Korea wants is a formal peace treaty to end the Korean War, instead of the armistice that leaves the peninsula still technically in a state of war. □

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Berlusconi lawyers seek to delay sex-for-hire case

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi's judicial woes weighed on Italy's political future on Monday as prosecutors requested an accelerated trial of the former premier on corruption charges and judges in his sex-for-hire trial ordered a medical visit to certify his ailments. The judicial jockeying comes at a politically sensitive time for Italy, as it seeks to form a stable government following inconclusive national elections on Feb. 24-25.

Democratic Party leader Pier Luigi Bersani, whose forces finished first in the lower house vote, has ruled out an alliance with Berlusconi's center-right coalition, which finished second. But Bersani's options are limited as comic-turned-political leader Beppe Grillo, whose movement finished third, refuses to align with any major party. Talks will begin March 20, after Parliament

convenes Friday and votes in leaders of both houses. Berlusconi has been seeking to have two Milan trials postponed due to an eye condition for which he has been hospitalized since Friday. Judges in Berlusconi's



Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi speaks to reporters at Milan's court, Italy.
(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

tax fraud appeal continued with Saturday's hearing after court-appointed doctors said his ailments were not severe enough to keep him from court.

But another Milan court on Monday granted the motion to delay the hearing in

the sex-for-hire trial after ordering a new medical visit to verify the severity of his ailments. Berlusconi's lawyers submitted three medical certificates, citing the eye inflammation and a heart problem, to support the new delay.

Prosecutor Ilda Boccassini had been scheduled to wrap up her closing arguments in the trial in which Berlusconi, 76, is charged with having paid for sex with an underage Moroccan teen and using his influence to cover it up. They were put off until March 18. Giovanni Orsina, a professor of political science professor at Rome's LUISS university, said the intensifying judicial attention on Berlusconi at such a delicate movement has negative consequences on the political process "whatever you think of whose fault it is." The situation makes it even more difficult for Bersani to consider any sort of political agreement with the center-right, while fur-

ther polarizing Berlusconi supporters who see him as a persecuted figure, Orsina said.

Berlusconi has long complained that he is the target of a judicial campaign, citing many trials mostly in Milan and mostly related to his business dealings.

He was convicted in October of tax fraud related to the purchase of the rights to air Hollywood movies on his television networks. Prosecutors in the appeals trial are seeking to uphold the four-year sentence, which includes a five-year ban on public office. A verdict is due in coming weeks in both the appeal case and the sensational sex-for-hire trial.

Angelino Alfano, the head

of Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party, has said the pressure to conclude the cases is "an attempt to eliminate Silvio Berlusconi by judicial means, having failed by electoral or democratic measures."

Alfano led a contingent of a few dozen newly elected center-right lawmakers to the courthouse in Milan on Monday to protest the treatment of Berlusconi. They sang the Italian anthem outside, entered the building and then left after a short time.

The head of the magistrate's association, Rodolfo Sabelli, told Sky News 24 television that there was no effort to accelerate the trials, noting that the cases were all in various stages. □

Al-Qaida says it killed 51 Syrian soldiers

ADAM SCHRECK
Q. ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Al-Qaida's Iraq branch claimed responsibility Monday for the deaths of 51 Syrian soldiers and nine Iraqis killed in a well-planned assault in western Iraq last week, intensifying concerns that the terror group is coordinating with Islamist rebels fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Iraqi authorities say fighters and weapons are moving increasingly more freely across the long and porous desert border between the two countries as Syrian rebels try to consolidate con-

trol on their side of the frontier. The issue also plays into the conflict between Iraq's Shiite-led government and Sunni insurgents, particularly al-Qaida. Iraq officially has not taken sides in the Syria civil war, though Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki warned in an interview with The Associated Press this month that a victory for rebels would create a new extremist haven and spark sectarian wars in his own country and in Lebanon.

Al-Qaida in Iraq and Syria's Jabhat al-Nusra ultimately aim to create a border sanctuary they can both exploit that could house command centers and

training camps, according to two Iraqi military intelligence officials.

They estimate there are about 750 Jabhat al-Nusra militants — including foreign fighters from other Arab countries — among approximately 2,000 anti-Assad fighters who control long stretches of borderlands on the Syrian side. The officials said the Syrian militants are increasingly crossing into Iraq to meet their al-Qaida counterparts. The Iraqi officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose security operations to reporters. □

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Hand-picked Chavez successor registers in election

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

PAUL HAVEN

The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Hugo Chavez's hand-picked successor turned the nation's electoral commission into a stage for a massive campaign rally Monday, bringing thousands of cheering, crying, music-playing supporters with him as he registered his candidacy in an April 14 vote to replace the dead president.

The massive crowd blocked opposition candidate Henrique Capriles from registering by the deadline at 2 p.m. local time, and he asked election officials to extend the registration period.

Thousands applauded from a plaza outside the National Election Commission, waving banners and holding up posters of Chavez. Many wore the red shirts and baseball caps of Chavez's ruling Socialist Party, letting out a loud cheer when acting President Nicolas Maduro arrived to sign his election



Venezuela's acting President Nicolas Maduro holds a girl in his arms as he gestures to supporters after registering his presidential candidacy to replace late President Hugo Chavez at the national electoral council in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 11, 2013. Presidential elections were announced to take place on April 14, after the death of Chavez on March 5. At right is Attorney General Cilia Flores.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

papers.

Some cried as Maduro saluted them from the building's balcony, eulogizing Chavez once again as Venezuela's "father redeemer" and asking God to give him "the wisdom to allow me to carry out the orders he gave us."

Later, he launched into a speech of more than two hours in the plaza outside the building, introducing his longtime partner, Attorney General Cilia Flores, and their children and grandchildren to the crowd.

"I am not Chavez, but I am his son, and all of us together, the people, we are Chavez," he said.

Opposition supporters denounced the carefully stage-managed event as an affront to basic electoral fairness. The electoral commission is meant to play an impartial role ensuring the vote is fair and free.

Campaigning doesn't officially start until April 2, but already the two sides are at each other's throats.

Capriles announced his

candidacy Sunday, while blasting Chavez's top lieutenants for trying to use the president's death to stoke passions and tilt the election.

"You are playing politics with the president's body," he said, adding that he wasn't convinced the government had been honest about when Chavez died, and had lied to the people during his long illness by insisting he would get better. The government says Chavez succumbed to cancer on Tuesday after a nearly two-year battle. It has offered almost no clinical information.

Capriles previously called Maduro a shameless liar and referred to him condescendingly as "boy."

Maduro appeared right after Capriles on state TV on Sunday, accusing "the losing, miserable candidate" of defaming Chavez and his family. He called Capriles a "fascist" who was trying to provoke violence by insulting the "crystalline, pure image of Commander Chavez." □

Clinton awards more than \$700,000 for agriculture in Haiti

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— A charity for former U.S. President Bill Clinton on Monday awarded more than \$700,000 to develop the country's agriculture sector. The Clinton Foundation announced that the

grants will go toward efforts to plant trees, build a coffee farm and train farmers. Clinton has been the United Nations' special envoy to Haiti since shortly after the devastating 2009 earthquake. He left Haiti following a two-day visit accompanied by poten-



Former U.S. President and UN special envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton arrives with his delegation to visit the coffee production and export company Rebo S.A. in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, March 11, 2013. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton is in Haiti with a delegation to promote investment in the Caribbean nation's agriculture sector.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

tial investors representing a perfume company, restaurants and a lingerie company. "The country has been beat down so long and the controversies are so familiar to people that it's sometimes too easy to see the down side. I'm

not naive. I know what the down side is," he told The Associated Press. One of the delegation's visits on Monday was to a brewery Heineken NV purchased last year. The company announced on Monday that it would invest \$40 million to

expand the brewery and help farmers who supply it with sorghum.

President Michel Martelly is trying to lure foreign investors to help rebuild the Caribbean nation following the massive quake. His administration has routinely employed the mantra, "Haiti is open for business." But analysts in both Haiti and abroad say the nation is held back by an old-fashioned banking system and a dysfunctional justice system that provides little legal certainty for investors. Other deterrents include U.S. government advisories that alert travelers to security concerns, a cholera epidemic and inadequate infrastructure. The travel warnings didn't escape the notice of first-time Haiti visitor Mario Batali, an American celebrity chef, even if he did have the luxury of traveling with Clinton's security detail. □

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UK queen celebrates Commonwealth Day after illness

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II attended a London reception to celebrate Commonwealth Day on Monday, her first public appearance since she was briefly hospitalized for a stomach illness.

The monarch appeared in good spirits, although earlier in the day she had to pull out of another event. Buckingham Palace officials said the 86-year-old queen was still getting over a bout of gastroenteritis that led to her first hospitalization in a decade last week.

Wearing a mint and silver ensemble, Elizabeth made a brief speech at the ceremony held at Marlborough House in central London. After that she signed a new charter setting out the Commonwealth's values and commitment to equal rights. The queen had to cancel several engagements, including a visit to



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth signs the Commonwealth Charter at a reception at Marlborough House, London, Monday March 11, 2013. The Charter is an historic document which brings together, for the first time in the associations 64-year history, key declarations on Commonwealth principles.

(AP Photo/PA, Philip Toscano)

Rome, last week because of illness. The one-day hos-

pitalization raised concerns about the general health

of the queen, who has rarely taken time off her du-

ties due to illness.

But the palace says she remains in robust health.

"The queen hopes to undertake some of her official engagements planned for the rest of the week," the palace said.

Earlier Monday, the monarch canceled an appearance at a Westminster Abbey service marking Commonwealth Day. Prince Philip, the queen's 91-year-old husband, attended the service, where he was joined by 2,000 guests, including Commonwealth ambassadors. A prerecorded annual address by the queen, who heads the association of countries, was played in the abbey.

Elizabeth carried out more than 400 official engagements in 2012 — ranging from weekly meetings with the prime minister to ceremonial gatherings such as the reception on Monday.

EU bans cosmetics with animal-tested ingredients

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union banned the sale of new cosmetic products containing ingredients tested on animals with immediate effect Monday. "This is a great opportunity for Europe to set an example of responsible innovation in cosmetics without any compromise on consumer safety," said Tonio Borg, the EU's top official on health and consumer issues. Animal rights groups were quick to cheer the measure, but Cosmetics Europe, a trade body representing the EU's €71 bil-

lion (\$93 billion) industry, said the ban "acts as a brake on innovation."

While the industry's rabbits, mice or guinea pigs used in testing will now be spared, consumers are unlikely to notice immediate changes because products containing ingredients that were tested on animals before the ban can remain on the shelves.

The 27-country bloc's executive arm, the European Commission, claimed the decision "is in line with what many European citizens believe firmly: that the development of cosmetics does not warrant animal

testing."

The EU has banned animal testing of finished cosmetic products since 2004. The ban on cosmetics containing animal-tested ingredients was first decided four years ago but initially left loopholes for certain tests following resistance from cosmetics companies.

At the moment, neither the U.S. nor Asian markets have similar bans in place. While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prohibits the sale of unsafe cosmetics, it doesn't require that animal tests be conducted to show that the cosmetics are safe.

Animal rights groups such as Humane Society International cheered the EU's decision on the full ban as a major step in stopping animals' suffering, saying the bloc has now become "the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetics market."

The group also said it hopes the course taken by the EU — whose nations combined form the world's biggest economy — will soon be replicated by the global cosmetics industry.

The phase-out of animal testing over the years in Europe has resulted in a dramatic drop in such activity among U.S. cosmetic

and personal care product manufacturers looking to sell overseas. U.S. beauty makers generated about \$38.3 billion in revenue in 2011, according to the latest statistics from the Washington-based industry trade group Personal Care Products Council.

"This had an impact on the U.S. cosmetic industry," said Kathy Guillermo, senior vice-president of laboratory investigation for the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, known as PETA. "It also ushered in a whole new era of non-animal science" in Europe. □

Senior Dominican official ends fight over extradition

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ
Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A former senior official in the Dominican military and anti-drug agency on Monday abandoned his bid to fight extradition and agreed to be sent to the United States to face drug trafficking charges.

Francisco Hiraldo, a retired Navy admiral and former chief of operations for the National Drug Control Agency, had previously refused to sign the extradition agreement and vowed to clear his name, hiring a prominent defense lawyer. He did not explain his change of strategy at a hearing of the Supreme Court, which must review requests to extradite citizens of the Dominican Republic.

His attorney, Ramon Pina, said Monday that he still maintains his innocence and will fight the charges in the United States.

The extradition is expected to take place within days. He was arrested in October on a still-sealed warrant out of New York City. Dominican authorities have said he is accused of taking payoffs from traffickers to allow more than two dozen shipments of South American cocaine to transit through the Caribbean country from 2001 and 2009. The Dominican attorney general's office has said he was also paid at least once, in 2008, with a shipment of 700 kilograms (1,543 pounds) of cocaine because he allegedly was able to transport it to the United States independent of the South American cartels and the Dominican drug rings.

The attorney general also said he is also accused of providing protection to former Army Capt. Quirino Ernesto Paulino Castillo, who was arrested in 2005 while transporting 1,387 kilograms (3,057 pounds) of cocaine and is awaiting trial in the U.S. on drug and money laundering charges. □

Bahamas:

Search finds 1 of 2 missing men from China

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Authorities searched off the Bahamas on Monday for a Chinese man who apparently became lost in rough weather during a fishing trip.

Three companions were rescued.

Four men had gone out to fish around noon Sunday when they were caught in rough weather, said In-

spector Chrislyn Skippings, a spokeswoman for the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Three of the men were later rescued as they tried to get back to shore and authorities were searching the Atlantic for the remaining man.

The U.S. Coast Guard and authorities from the nearby Turks and Caicos Islands

were assisting the Bahamas with the search for the two missing men.

Police initially reported the men had been in a kayak, but it was actually a raft, said Petty Officer Mark Barney, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman.

The men had set off from Jaws Beach on the western tip of New Providence, the island that includes Nassau,

the capital.

Three of the four men on board the raft were employees of China State Construction working on the Baha Mar, a resort and casino complex that is being built and financed by the Chinese government along Cable Beach near Nassau, according to Pauline Yoshihashi, a project spokeswoman. □

Castro laments loss of 'best friend' Chavez

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Retired leader Fidel Castro broke nearly a week of silence since the death of friend and ally Hugo Chavez, saying Monday that Cuba has lost its "best friend" with the late Venezuelan president's passing.

In an article published on the front page of Communist Party newspaper Granma, Castro said that while it had been clear that Chavez's life was threatened by a recurring cancer affliction that prompted four surgeries, word of his death on March 5 nonetheless came as a bitter shock.

"The best friend the Cuban people have had in the course of their history passed away. ... Although we knew of his critical state of health, the news was a strong blow," Castro wrote. The 86-year-old Castro, who has been out of power since a near-fatal intestinal ailment forced him from office in 2006, has ceased penning his once-regular opinion pieces, known as "Reflections."

Last October, amid the latest round of rumors about his own health, Castro explained that he decided to do so not because he was ill but because they were taking up valuable space in state media that was needed for other purposes. In life, Chavez often referred to Castro as a father figure, mentor and close friend, and after he first won election in 1998, Havana and Caracas grew



Cuba's President Fidel Castro, left, and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez wave to a crowd while touring Canaima National Park in eastern Venezuela in a canoe.

(AP Photo/Egilda Gomez, File)

increasingly close.

Chavez supplied Cuba with billions of dollars in subsidized oil to help prop up the island's listing economy, while Havana sent tens of thousands of doctors, teachers, sports trainers and political advisers to work in Venezuela.

Venezuela has become Cuba's No. 1 trading part-

ner.

Following Chavez's latest surgery in Havana in December, Castro said he checked in on the Venezuelan president's health daily. On Monday, he recalled that Chavez once invited him to go on a riverboat excursion in Venezuela once the two leaders' "revolutionary task" was finished.

Invoking Cuban independence hero Jose Marti and 19th century Venezuelan liberator Simon Bolivar, Castro said it had been an honor to have been Chavez's ally.

"Not even he suspected how great he was," Castro wrote. "Onward to victory always, unforgettable friend!" □



Pulled away from the brink of collapse:

The Water Tower in San Nicolas has been restored!

SAN NICOLAS - The construction phase on the restoration project of the Water Tower in San Nicolas has come to conclusion. Rene Kan, President of the island's Monumentenfonds, expressed a great sense of satisfaction having received the building from the construction company, fully restored to its formal glory, ahead of time, and below budget. Two government entities collaborated on the restoration of the historic water tower, Stichting Monumentenfonds, the Monument Fund Foundation, and the Monumentenbureau, the Monument Bureau. While the first secured the financing for the restoration work, the second took the lead to supervise all technical aspects of the undertaking.

Kan, who is the president of the foundation reports the project was begun on April 2nd, 2012, and was scheduled to conclude on April 2nd, 2013. The building, he states, was transferred to the Monument Bureau on March 8th, 2013, ahead of scheduled by almost one full month.

Ing. Yvonne Webb-Kock, Director of the Monumentenbureau, congratulated



Kan and Anne Witsenburg, the Director of Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba on the great news that funds saved by the early completion, about 5% of the investment, will be put into another equally-important restoration project.

As president of Stichting Monumentenfonds, Kan shared the good news with the community, in view of the fact that very few projects are brought to conclusion on time and under budget, here.

A number of companies

deserve recognition, Kan states, for their excellent team work on the project among them the Monumentenbureau, Earon Matthew of Plan D2 architectural bureau, as well as local companies such as PIB NV, HJC NV, Ace Civiel Laboratorium, Albo Aruba NV, CHS, Croon, ASA, Arubaanse Maatschappij and Martinez Landscaping. According to Kan, the extensive preparation and meticulous planning paid off, and while it took considerable time to work ev-

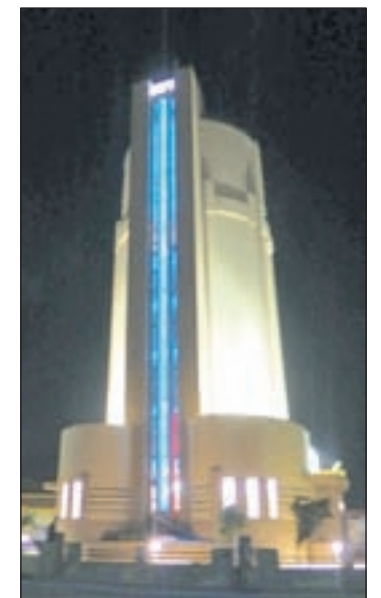
ery detail out, under solid management and caring supervision, it all came together magnificently in spite of the inherent technical challenges working on a building designed in 1939!

Under Monumentenbureau's management, in collaboration with the architects and builders, subcontractors and consultants, Aruba now enjoys a gem of a historical building.

Ing. Yvonne Webb-Kock and all of her associates at the Monumentenbureau, deserve praise for the dedication they show for any project they undertake, and for pushing everyone in the right direction in order to one by one, realizing the dream of total monument restoration in Aruba, paying homage to the past and connecting it to our future.

The water tower, which was owned by WEB Aruba NV, Aruba's water agency, was gifted to the Monument Bureau, a number of years ago. As a matter of fact, Aruba is blessed

by two identical elegantly designed water towers, one in Oranjestad already restored, and the second in San Nicholas. Both towers came into use at the end of the 30s, and served as water reservoirs with a maximum capacity of 400 liters. The two towers became obsolete when WEB Aruba NV opened its current plant in Balashi. Subsequently the water towers accommodated several government offices, then as they dilapidated they were abandoned, falling into a state of disrepair. In recent years the San Nicholas tower started leaning



on its side, and the need for restoration became imminent, for fear of the building collapse.

Finally with the financing in place, the building was saved and will become an asset to its neighboring community.

Conservation of historical buildings in Aruba started in 1985 with the aim of preserving monuments at risk of being lost. With the completion of the San Nicholas water tower restoration another piece of the island's cultural heritage was pulled away from the brink of destruction. □





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Aqua Grill hosts Aggreko group



PALM BEACH – This past Friday evening, Aqua Grill had the pleasure of hosting a group of executives here with U.S.—based Aggreko,

a global leader in the rental of power generation and temperature control equipment. The group of 44 people en-

joyed the island hospitality of Aruba's premier seafood restaurant. Coordinated by ECO Destination Management Ser-

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**Marianela
Parra**

And family are vacationing at Casa del Mar. This is her 20th consecutive year on the Island making her virtually a local.



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vices, along with the marketing and events team at Aqua Grill, a specially-tailored menu was created for the group, including choices like the popular Chesapeake crab cake, seared tuna tataki, seared Chilean Sea Bass, locally-caught, grilled mahi mahi, as well as steak and vegetarian options. Aqua Grill is a leading choice for meeting and event planners, as the chic

ambiance (with flexible seating options for groups) and critically acclaimed cuisine make for a great option of dining out on the island. Aqua Grill is open 7 nights a week, and can accommodate groups of various sizes, as well as an intimate dinner for two. To make reservations or inquiring about booking your next group event, call 586-5900. □

Loyal visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!



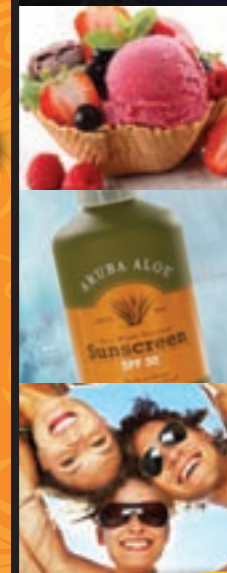
PALM BEACH - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of Loyal visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-19 and 20-or-more consecutive

years. The honorees include Tom and Diane Rijberg, Low and Kathy Dalton, Abram M. and Diane Neloms, and Maryjo Freeman as Distinguished Visitors, and Thomas and Juanez Farrington as Goodwill Ambassadors. The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism

Authority with longtime activities coordinator Ms. Avril who conducted the ceremony held at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees are the Fantastic Sunsets, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and local Restaurants.

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At their private residence in Palm Beach:

Brian and Lisa honored by Aruba Tourism Authority!



NOORD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba for 24 consecutive years, at their own house as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minis-



ter of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Brain Bancroft and Lisa Cote, from East Windsor, Connecticut. Brain and Lisa love Aruba very much, because of the friendly Aruban people, the weather, the beaches and

restaurants. They enjoy so much to meet each year with their Aruban friends who they think of like family that they bought a beautiful cunucu house at Palm Beach, Noord. Brain and Lisa rebuilt the house themselves during their visits and made it a wonderful place to spend their vacation

every winter in Aruba. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Brain and Lisa's Aruban families Ese Figaroa, Edith Franken, Claudio Wolff, Pedro Franken, Cesar Trimon and their best Aruban friend Francis Petrocchi. □

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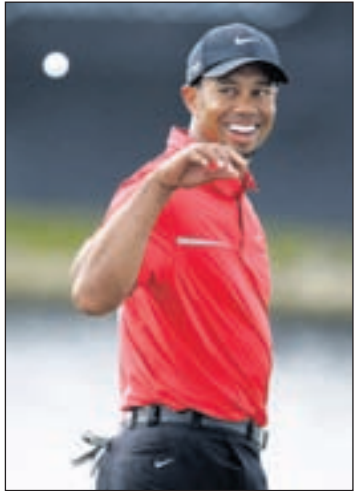
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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Tiger Woods looks back to catch a ball after his caddy cleaned it on the eighth green during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Doral, Fla. Woods won the championship.

Associated Press

Another big win ramps up expectations for Woods

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — There is a fascination with numbers when it comes to Tiger Woods, a product of him winning so much over so many years. He now has 76 wins on the PGA Tour, six short of the record 82 by Sam Snead, and one more than Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh combined. His two-shot victory at Doral was his 17th in the World Golf Championships. No one else has won more than three. The Cadillac Championship was the 22nd time he has taken at least a three-shot lead into the final round on tour, and he has won them all. But there is only one number that matters. Woods is measured by majors, and he has not made up any ground on the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus in five years. He remains stuck on 14.

Continued on page 18



Magic snap seven-game home skid

ABRACADABRA!

Orlando Magic's Jameer Nelson (14) passes the ball around Philadelphia 76ers' Charles Jenkins (31) and Philadelphia 76ers' Lavoy Allen, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Orlando, Fla. Orlando won the game 99-91.
Associated Press
Page 20

Woods

Continued from Front

Woods stamped himself as the favorite at Augusta National, not so much because he has won twice before the Masters for the first time since 2008, but for the way he built big leads and never gave anyone else much hope. The less excitement about the way he wins, the more intimidating he looks.

Woods had a two-shot lead at the halfway point of Torrey Pines, doubled it going into the final round and stretched it to eight shots before he lost patience and interest in the Monday finish. Despite dropping four shots in the last five holes, he still won by four.

He led by at least three shots from the 11th hole Saturday at Doral until a



Tiger Woods pumps his fist after making birdie putt on the 18th hole during the third round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Saturday, March 9, 2013, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

conservative bogey on the final hole gave him a two-shot win over Steve Stricker. "That's how I know I can play," Woods said. "That's the thing. To be able to bring it out a couple times so far this year — and then be able to close and get

the Ws on top of that — that's nice. Any time I can win prior to Augusta, it always feels good."

The temptation is to declare that Woods is back, though that should come with a note of caution.

It looked like he was back

when he won at Bay Hill last year by five shots over Graeme McDowell, and then he tied for 40th in the Masters. It looked like he had that old magic back when he rallied to win the Memorial, and then he went into a weekend fog at The Olympic Club and didn't crack the top 20.

And while he has won twice this year, his record includes a missed cut to start the year at Abu Dhabi, and a tie for 37th at the Honda Classic when he never broke par any of the four rounds because of two lost balls, four shots in the water and four double bogeys. He also lost in the Match Play Championship, which is not a good measure because he was 2-under par (without a bogey on his card) through 17 holes and ran into a guy (Charles Howell III) who played a little bit better that day.

How he fares at Bay Hill in two weeks — he could go back to No. 1 in the world with a win — will determine the degree of expectations going into the Masters.

McDowell might be the best judge of Woods among players.

He now has played in the final group with Woods three times in just over two years. McDowell saw some shockingly bad shots by Woods at the Chevron World Challenge in December 2010 when he made up a four-shot deficit against Woods and beat him in a playoff behind two clutch birdies. Woods had a one-shot lead over McDowell in the final round at Bay Hill last year and pulled away in conditions so firm, fast and scary that Woods referred to it as a U.S. Open that broke out in Orlando. Woods won by five.

They played the final 36 holes together at Doral, and McDowell gave him a good fight. Turns out it wasn't a fair fight.

Woods had a solid command of his shots, and he putted as well as he has all year, thanks to that tip from Stricker. Woods made 61-of-64 putts inside 10 feet for the week on the Blue Monster. He missed only one putt inside 5 feet out of 52 chances.

The most significant putt by Woods came on the second hole, when McDowell stuffed his approach inside 7 feet and Woods matched him with an 18-foot birdie putt of his own. What won't get as much attention is a stretch of holes early on the back nine, when Woods poured in a 6-foot birdie putt on the par-5 10th hole, and made tricky 5-foot par putts look easy on the 12th and 13th holes to keep his margin.

"I said in the press room last night, 'He doesn't look phenomenal, it just looks really, really good.' And that probably came out wrong because what I mean is the golf courses don't let you be phenomenal," McDowell said, referring to Doral on Sunday and Bay Hill a year ago.

"You've got to be under control," he said. "In this wind the last couple days, his ball flight control is pretty stunning, really. It's pretty cool to watch. I thought his short game and putting the last couple days was very impressive. He cleaned up everything he had to clean up pretty much. It was good stuff."

And how did Woods compare with the World Challenge at the end of 2010?

"He doesn't have those off-the-radar balls anymore," McDowell said. "In '10, '11 when I was playing with him, he would hit the odd shot where you would just of blink twice and go, 'Really, that's wide.' He's got the ball under control now. He knows exactly what his golf swing is going to produce."

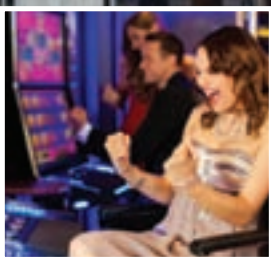
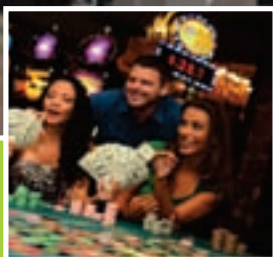
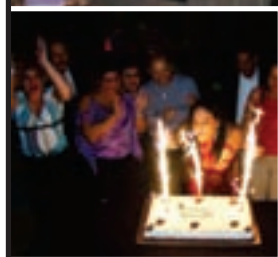
Despite the up-and-down results at the start of the year, the big picture indicates an upward trend for Woods.

He went the last six months of 2012 without winning anywhere, and he didn't register consecutive top 10s until the FedEx Cup playoffs in September. Even so, Woods finished off that season with five straight finishes in the top 10.

Woods now has won more than half his PGA Tour events (40) on seven courses — Torrey Pines, Firestone, Bay Hill, Cog Hill, Muirfield Village, Doral and Augusta National. □

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Union beat Rapids for the first time in MLS

COMMERCE CITY, Colorado (AP) — Jack McInerney scored in the 79th minute to lead the Philadelphia Union to a 2-1 victory over the Colorado Rapids in Major League Soccer on Sunday. Antoine Hoppenot's pass found McInerney on the right side and he beat goalkeeper Matt Pickens to break the deadlock, giving the Union its first win in six matches against the Rapids. Amobi Okugo had a first-half goal for Philadelphia and Jamie Smith scored in

the 69th minute to equalize for Colorado. The match had been re-scheduled from Saturday because of a snowstorm. Earthquakes 2, Red Bulls 1 Adam Jahn scored his first professional goal before Chris Wondolowski's game-winning penalty in second-half injury time gave San Jose a come-from-behind win over New York. New York led for most of the match after Eric Alexander scored in the 17th minute. Jahn equalized in the 83rd minute, sparking a frenzied

last 10 minutes. Chivas USA 3, FC Dallas 1 At Carson, California, David Ferreira opened the scoring for FC Dallas in the 57th minute before Chivas rallied with three late goals to secure the win. Juan Agudelo equalized with a left-foot shot from the edge of the area in the 68th minute, Oswaldo Minda gave Chivas the lead for the first time with a goal in the 76th and Giovanni Casillas finished it off with a counter-attacking goal in stoppage time. □



Colorado Rapids' Brian Mullan (11) and Philadelphia Union's Sheanon Williams (25) collide as they battle for a high ball during the first half of a MLS soccer game at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Sunday, March 10, 2013, in Commerce City, Colo. Associated Press



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Heat win 18th straight, roll past Pacers 105-91

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Mario Chalmers scored 26 points and Chris Bosh added 24 as the Miami Heat won their 18th straight game, easily topping the Indiana Pacers 105-91 on Sunday night.

The 18-game streak ties the seventh longest in NBA history, and is the league's best since the Boston Celtics won 19 straight during the 2008-09 season. Miami will try for No. 19 when it hosts Atlanta on Tuesday night.

The win also gave Miami (47-14) a victory over every NBA team this season. The Heat lost both previous meetings with Indiana.

Dwyane Wade scored 23 points for the Heat, who controlled the game despite a season-low 13 points from LeBron James. Ray Allen added 11 for Miami.

David West scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half for the Pacers, who fell nine games behind Miami in the Eastern Conference standings. Roy Hibbert scored 15, D.J. Augustin had 14 and Paul George scored 10 for Indiana.

Raptors 100, Cavaliers 96
TORONTO (AP) — Amir Johnson scored 17 points and matched his career high with 16 rebounds, and



Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan (6) dunks the basket and falls on Detroit Pistons guard Brandon Knight (7), who gets a foul, in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press.

Alan Anderson scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

Cavaliers star guard Kyrie Irving was knocked out by an apparent shoulder in-

jury late in the third quarter as Cleveland lost for the fourth time in five games. Irving was hurt when he collided with Toronto rookie Jonas Valanciunas on

a baseline drive with 2:04 left in the third. He shot the resulting free throws one-handed. Irving made the first but missed the second before walking off and heading to the locker room. He finished with 12 points.

Irving missed 11 games between Nov. 21 and Dec. 8 with a broken finger. He also sat out three games between Feb. 26 and March 1 with a sore right knee.

Lakers 90, Bulls 81

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dwight Howard scored 16 points and grabbed 21 rebounds, Kobe Bryant chipped in with 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Los Angeles.

The Lakers improved their win-loss record to 33-31, the first time this season they have been two games over .500. They also moved one-half game ahead of the Utah Jazz and into sole possession of the No. 8 and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The Lakers led almost throughout, only briefly falling behind by two points in the second quarter, and led by as many as 18 in the third period.

Nate Robinson led the Bulls with 19 points, and Joakim Noah had 18 points and 17 rebounds.

Howard made 8 of 14 shots from the floor but missed all five free throws. His 21 rebounds marked the fourth time this season he's grabbed at least 20.

Thunder 91, Celtics 79
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Russell Westbrook scored 15 points and the Thunder stretched their winning streak to five games.

The Thunder limited Boston to 25 percent shooting in the second half after the Celtics shot 51 percent in the first. Oklahoma City used an 11-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter to close it out.

The Celtics had pulled within 68-65 after three quarters before going without a basket for the first 5 minutes of the fourth, and they never could recover.

Paul Pierce had 20 points to lead Boston, which had its own run of five straight wins broken. Kevin Garnett chipped in 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Magic 99, 76ers 91
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Jameer Nelson had 24 points and 10 assists, and Nik Vucevic added 14 points and 17 rebounds. The win ended the Magic's seven-game home losing streak, their longest skid in Orlando since 2003-04. □



Pittsburgh Penguins left wing Chris Kunitz (14) fires his third goal of the game past New York Islanders goalie Evgeni Nabokov (20) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — About three hours after asking for more respect from NHL officials, Alex Ovechkin was called for two penalties within sec-

onds, leading to a pair of goals that put the New York Rangers ahead Sunday in a 4-1 win over the Washington Capitals.

Brian Boyle scored his first goal of the season one

Ovechkin penalties spur Rangers' 4-1 win over Caps

game after being a healthy scratch, and Ryan Callahan also took advantage of Ovechkin's miscues to give New York a two-goal lead in the second period. Derek Stepan and Brad Richards also scored, and Martin Biron made 28 saves for the Rangers, who have won five of six.

Steve Oleksy scored his first NHL goal for the Capitals, who endured a rough weekend against New York teams. Washington lost 5-2 on the road against the Islanders on Saturday.

With the score 4-1, Capitals coach Adam Oates pulled

goalie Braden Holtby in favor of Michal Neuvirth, who hadn't played since Feb. 7 and had recently been sidelined with an illness.

OILERS 6, BLACKHAWKS 5 CHICAGO (AP) — Sam Gagner scored two of Edmonton's four goals in the first period and the Oilers beat Chicago, sending the Blackhawks to their second consecutive loss after their record-breaking start.

Ryan Whitney and Taylor Hall each had a goal and an assist for Edmonton, which snapped a five-game losing streak. Shawn Horcoff also scored as the

Oilers went 3 for 4 on the power play.

Yann Davis, who came in after Devan Dubnyk was hurt in the second period, finished with 21 saves.

Chicago set an NHL record by recording at least one point in the first 24 games of the season. The streak ended with a 6-2 loss at Colorado on Friday night.

Patrick Kane, Marian Hossa, Sheldon Brookbank and Brent Seabrook scored during a wild second period, and Kane added his team-leading 14th of the season to get Chicago within one with 13 minutes left. □

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Federer easily advances at Indian Wells

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) —

Defending champion Roger Federer beat Ivan Dodig of Croatia 6-3, 6-1 in a third-round match at the BNP Paribas Open on Monday for his 890th career victory on the ATP Tour.

Federer joined Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl and Guillermo Vilas as the only men to have won at least that many matches in the Open era. The second-ranked Swiss star is seeking his first tournament title of the year at an event where he has won four championships and has a 41-8 career record.

Federer was the highest-seeded men's player in action Monday.

In women's play, top-ranked Victoria Azarenka was to face Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium at night.

A 4.7 magnitude earthquake struck at 9:55 a.m. local time near Indian Wells. It occurred before the day's matches had begun, although the Indian Wells Tennis Garden

was busy with fans and workers, many of whom said they felt a strong jolt. Fifth-seeded Rafael Nadal was on the massage table preparing for his third-round match against Leonardo Mayer of Argentina when the quake hit.

"I was very scared," he said. "I think the massage table moves even worse." The Spaniard said his legs were wobbling and even though it was his first earthquake it took him "probably a half-second" to realize what was happening.

After the excitement caused by the quake, Nadal didn't even get to play his match. Mayer withdrew because of a back injury.

Nadal opened his bid for a third Indian Wells title with a two-set victory over American Ryan Harrison on Saturday, the Spaniard's first hard-court match in nearly a year. He returned to the ATP Tour a month ago, winning two of three tournaments on clay after missing seven months because of a left knee

injury.

Temperatures are forecast to soar into the 90s Fahrenheit (30s Celsius) in the next few days, conditions that should favor Nadal.

"For me, for my knee, for my foot, for everything is better when the conditions are warmer," he said. "I love practicing and playing in days like today: no wind, fantastic weather, good, hot temperature."

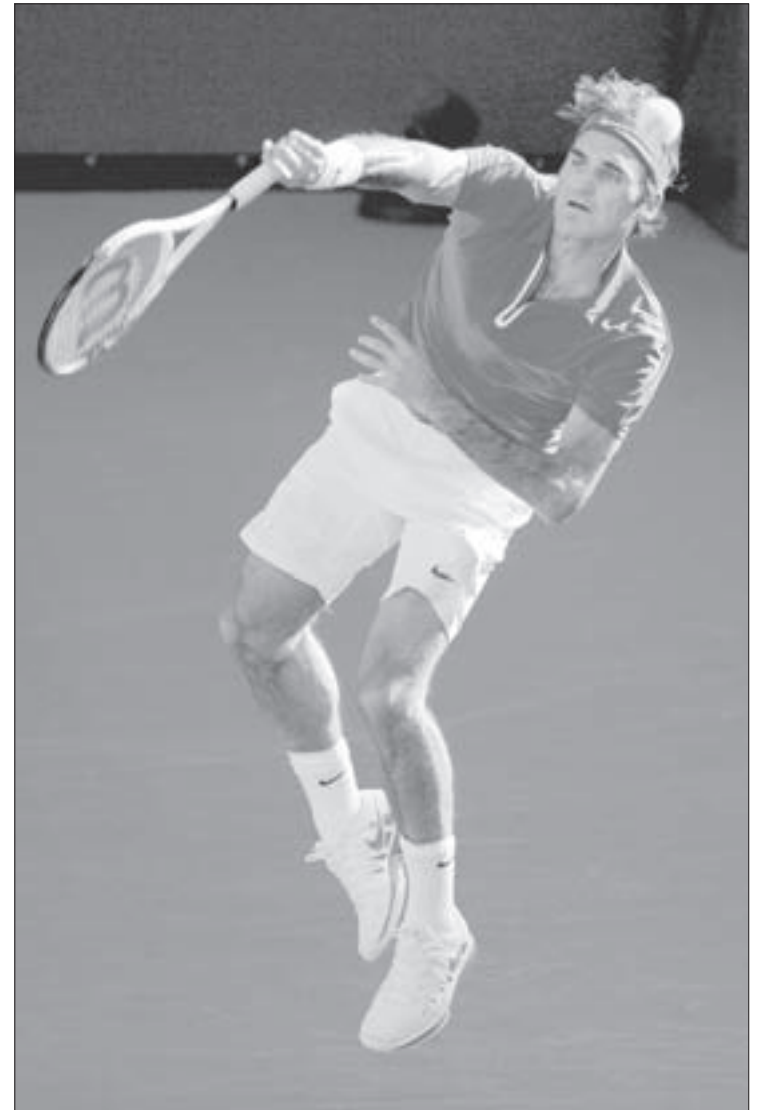
Nadal shared a friendly hit on Sunday with tournament owner Larry Ellison, the co-founder and CEO of Oracle Corp. and one of the world's wealthiest men. "His backhand improve, especially a lot from last year, so that's great," Nadal said. "It's great what he's doing for tennis and especially this tournament. He knows more about tennis I think than me."

On the men's side, No. 6 Tomas Berdych defeated 27th-seeded Florian Mayer 6-4, 6-1; Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis outlasted 20th-seeded Andreas Seppi, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to win his 13th consecutive match this season; and Kevin Anderson beat Jarkko Nieminen, 6-3, 6-1.

Gulbis takes on Nadal in the fourth round, a player that Gulbis has yet to beat in four matches.

"I believe that I can win," Gulbis said. "Yeah, I said it already."

Among the women's third-round winners Monday were No. 4 Angelique Kerber, No. 7 Sam Stosur, No. 8 Caroline Wozniacki, and No. 10 Nadia Petrova. Kerber beat 30th-seeded Yanina Wickmayer 6-1, 7-6 (4) after rallying from a 1-4 deficit in the second set. She and her coach were talking before the match when the quake hit.



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, serves to Ivan Dodig, of Croatia, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 11, 2013, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press.

Bolt wins Laureus Awards for sportsman of the year

TALES AZZONIAP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Usain Bolt was named sportsman of the year at the Laureus Sports Awards on Monday, with Europe's Ryder Cup golfers honored as the best team.

Bolt won his third Laureus Award after another dominant Olympic performance on the track at London, winning the gold in the 100, 200 and 4x100-meter relay.

The European Ryder Cup

team was rewarded for its remarkable rally against the United States at Medinah.

British heptathlete Jessica Ennis was chosen the sportswoman of 2012, while Andy Murray was named the top breakthrough athlete and Felix Sanchez the main comeback athlete.

Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner was the winner in the action category after becoming the first skydiver to go faster than the speed of sound. □

"In the first moment we both were thinking, it's like a subway here, but actually we are in the desert. No way that there is a subway," Kerber said. Stosur needed three sets to get by 32nd-seeded Shuai Peng of China, 6-3,

3-6, 6-2; and Wozniacki routed 29th-seeded Elena Vesnina, 6-2, 6-1. Petrova beat No. 21 seed Julia Georges, 6-1, 6-2 and Spanish qualifier Garbine Muguruza defeated Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia, 6-4, 6-0. □

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Sanofi blockbuster drug Plavix draws US probe

PARIS (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department is investigating drug maker Sanofi's disclosures to the Food and Drug Administration about different responses to its blockbuster blood thinner Plavix.

The French company said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission last week that it learned in June about the investigation.

It only said the investigation centered on "the variability of response to Plavix."

The company did not immediately respond to requests to give more details

on the investigation.

In 2010, the FDA added a black box — its strongest form of warning — to the label for Plavix.

At the time, the watchdog said certain patients with a genetic variation cannot metabolize the drug, putting them at increased risk for heart attack and stroke.

Before it got U.S. generic competition last May, Plavix was the No. 2 drug in the world by revenue, with annual sales of around \$9 billion in 2011.

Sanofi says it is cooperating with the investigation into Plavix, which is jointly



marketed with U.S.-based Bristol-Myers Squibb. Bristol-

Myers Squibb spokeswoman Jennifer Fron Mauer

said the company had no comment on the investigation.

Plavix is prescribed to heart disease patients to prevent dangerous blood clots, which can cause heart attack, stroke and death.

In order to work effectively, Plavix must be broken down by a particular liver enzyme.

But the FDA says 2 to 14 percent of people in the U.S. have low levels of the enzyme, preventing them from successfully processing Plavix.

The likelihood of being a non-responder varies by

Studies tie stress from storms, war to heart risks

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Stress does bad things to the heart. New studies have found higher rates of cardiac problems in veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, New Orleans residents six years after Hurricane Katrina and Greeks struggling through that country's financial turmoil.

Disasters and prolonged stress can raise "fight or flight" hormones that affect blood pressure, blood sugar and other things in ways that make heart trouble more likely, doctors say. They also provoke anger

and helplessness and spur heart-harming behaviors like eating or drinking too much.

"We're starting to connect emotions with cardiovascular risk markers" and the new research adds evidence of a link, said Dr. Nieca Goldberg, a cardiologist at NYU Langone Medical Center and an American Heart Association spokeswoman.

She had no role in the studies, which were discussed Sunday at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Francisco.

The largest, involving 207,954 veterans in Cali-

fornia and Nevada ages 46 to 74, compared those with PTSD to those without it. They were free of major heart disease and diabetes when researchers checked their Veterans Administration medical records from 2009 and 2010.

Checked again about two years later, 35 percent of those with PTSD but only 19 percent of those without it had developed insulin resistance, which can lead to diabetes and hardening of the arteries.

Doctors also saw higher rates of metabolic syndrome — a collection of heart disease risk factors

that include high body fat, cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. About 53 percent of veterans with PTSD but only 37 percent of those without it had several of these symptoms.

The numbers are estimates and are not as important as the trend — more heart risk with more stress, said one study leader, Dr. Ramin Ebrahimi, a cardiologist at the Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center and a professor at UCLA.

It shows that PTSD can cause physical symptoms, not just the mental ones commonly associated with

it.

"Twenty or 30 years ago PTSD was a term reserved for combat veterans. We have come to realize now that PTSD is actually a much more common disorder and it can happen in veterans who did not undergo combat but had a very traumatic experience" such as losing a friend, he said.

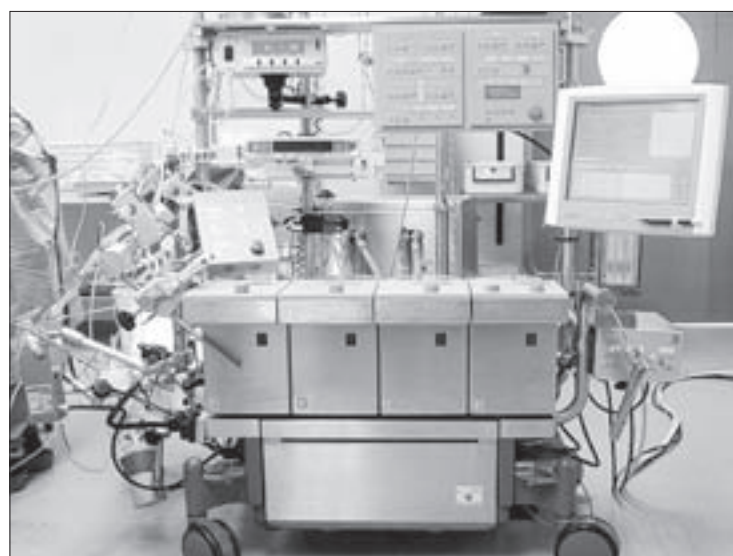
That goes for others who suffer trauma such as being raped, robbed at gunpoint or in a serious accident, he said. Nearly 8 million Americans have PTSD, the National Institute of Mental Health estimates. □

Heart-lung machines prove safe even in the elderly

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — One of the scariest parts of bypass surgery — having your heart stopped and going on a heart-lung machine while doctors fix your clogged arteries — is safe even in the elderly and doesn't cause mental decline as many people have feared, two landmark studies show.

Bypass surgery is one of the most common operations in the world. There is great debate about the best way to do it, and patients often are given a choice.

Usually doctors stop the



Landmark studies suggest that heart-lung machines are safer than once thought, even for the elderly.

(Handout Photo

heart to make it easier to connect new blood vessels to make detours around blocked ones. But some patients later complain of "pumphead" — mental decline thought to be from the heart-lung machines used to pump their blood while their hearts could not.

So surgeons started doing "off-pump" bypasses on beating hearts. Nearly one quarter of bypasses are done this way now. But that brought a new complaint: Results on the blood vessels seemed not as good.

The new studies were aimed at testing all these factors in a rigorous way

to see which method was best. Dr. Andre Lamy of Canada's McMaster University led a study of 4,752 people in 19 countries. They were randomly assigned to have bypasses with or without the use of heart pumps.

After one year, there were no big differences in the rates of death, heart attack, stroke or kidney failure in the two groups. Slightly more people who had bypasses without a heart-lung machine needed a follow-up procedure to open clogged arteries but the difference was so small it could have occurred by chance alone. □

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New BlackBerry coming to the U.S. on March 22

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion will launch its new touchscreen smartphone in the U.S. with AT&T on March 22. The release will come several weeks after RIM launched the much-delayed devices elsewhere. AT&T said Monday that the Z10 will be available for \$199.99 with a two-year contract. Sales of the device began in the U.K. and Canada shortly after RIM unveiled the phone in late January. The redesigned BlackBerry is RIM's attempt at a comeback. The pioneering brand lost its cachet not long after Apple's 2007 release of the iPhone, which reset consumers' expectations for what a smartphone should

do. RIM Chief Executive Thorsten Heins said previously he was disappointed the new BlackBerry would not be released in the U.S. until mid-March, but he said the U.S. and its phone carriers have a rigid testing system. Heins told The Associated Press last month that the company would have to regain market share in the U.S. for BlackBerry to be successful. The U.S. has been one market in which RIM has been particularly hurt. The iPhone and phones running Google's Android software now dominate. According to research firm IDC, shipments of BlackBerry phones plummeted from 46 percent of the U.S. market in 2008 to 2 percent in 2012. Heins also suggested to the AP that a modern

BlackBerry with a physical keyboard might not arrive in the U.S. until May or June, a month or two behind other parts of the world. Heins said the physical keyboard version, the BlackBerry Q10, will likely come out eight to 10 weeks after a carrier releases a model with only a touch screen, the BlackBerry Z10. With the Z10 set for release in the U.S. on March 22, eight to 10 weeks brings the U.S. date for the Q10 to mid-May to early June. Shares jumped \$1.32, or 10.1 percent, to \$14.38 in midday trading on the Nasdaq. BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis said the stock move is based a report quoting Lenovo's chief executive as saying he might be interested in an acquisition of RIM. Gillis and Jefferies analyst Peter



A model poses with the new BlackBerry Z10 smartphone during its launch in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, March 4, 2013.

Associated Press

Misek said a Chinese acquisition is unlikely due to security concerns. Misek said checks by Jefferies indicate that the Z10 is sold out in many new developing markets including India and said many carriers are scrambling for supply, but Gillis noted

RIM's U.S. release will go up against Samsung's next Galaxy smartphone which is expected to be unveiled on Thursday. "If that makes the splash that people think it may, you don't want to be the guy that's coming out a week later," Gillis said. □

What you 'like' on Facebook can be revealing

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Clicking those friendly blue "like" buttons strewn across the Web may be doing more than marking you as a fan of Coca-Cola or Lady Gaga. It could out you as gay. It might reveal how you vote. It might even suggest that you're an unmarried introvert with a high IQ and a weakness for nicotine. That's the conclusion of a study published Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Researchers reported analyzing the likes of more than 58,000 American Facebook users to make guesses about their person-



In this Dec. 13, 2011 file photo, a sign with Facebook's "Like" logo is posted at Facebook headquarters near the office for the company's User Operations Safety Team in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

alities and behavior, and even whether they drank, smoked, or did drugs. Cambridge University re-

searcher David Stillwell, one of the study's authors, said the results may come as a surprise.

"Your likes may be saying more about you than you realize," he said. Facebook launched its like button in 2009, and the small thumbs-up symbol has since become ubiquitous on the social network and common across the rest of the Web as well. Facebook said last year that roughly 2.7 billion new likes pour out onto the Internet every day — endorsing everything from pop stars to soda pop. That means an ever-expanding pool of data available to marketers, managers, and just about anyone else interested in users' inner lives, especially those who aren't careful about their privacy settings.

Stillwell and his colleagues scooped up a bucketful of that data in the way that many advertisers do — through apps. Millions of Facebook users have surveyed their own personal traits using applications including a program called myPersonality. Stillwell, as owner of the app, has received revenue from it, but declined to say how much. The study zeroed in on the 58,466 U.S. test takers who had also volunteered access to their likes. When researchers crunched the "like" data and compared their results to answers given in the personality test, patterns emerged in nearly every direction. □

EURO BRIEFS

Dutch: record bankruptcies in February 2013

AMSTERDAM (AP) — More Dutch companies declared bankruptcy in February than at any time since records began in 1981. The country's Central Bureau for Statistics also says Monday that on a three-month average, bankruptcies are at their highest level on record: around 680 per month, not counting one-person businesses. The Dutch economy is struggling as the government cuts spending and increases taxes to meet European budget rules that require countries to get their budget deficits down to 3 percent of their annual gross domestic product. Real estate markets are especially weak, due to a glut in office space and cuts in residential mortgage deductions. The country's economic forecasting office expects the Dutch economy to shrink for the second year running in 2013 before muted growth returns in 2014.

Intrade shuts over prediction market probe

LONDON (AP) — Online prediction market Intrade has shut down all trading activity immediately, saying it is investigating recently-discovered events that "may include financial irregularities." The Dublin-based company said in a statement it has closed and settled all open contracts as of close of business on Sunday. It said it cannot pay members their settled account balances until the investigations have concluded. Intrade allows users to place bets on future events by buying and selling shares in a system similar to the stock market. In November, the company said it could no longer take U.S. customers after regulators charged it with illegally facilitating bets on future economic data, the price of gold and even acts of war. □

Atlantic City casino revenue down 12.5% in Feb

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey

(AP) — In a pretty dismal month for Atlantic City's casinos, there was some good news: the struggling Revel might be turning things around.

Atlantic City's casinos took in 12.5 percent less from gamblers in February than they did a year ago. Figures released Monday by the state Division of Gaming Enforcement show the city's 12 casinos took in \$212.3 million.

The decline was helped by the fact that 2012 was a leap year in which February had 29 days, compared with the usual 28 this year. But Revel, the city's newest casino which will file a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition this month, saw revenue rise to \$9 million, up from \$7.9 million in January. "Our numbers are starting

to head in the right direction," said Kevin DeSanctis, Revel's CEO.

He added the casino-resort's group and leisure

is focusing in the short-term on beefing up entertainment offerings in The Social, a bar-performance space just off the casino floor, and

Revel has languished near the bottom of the city's casinos in terms of revenue since opening last April, and the company said it plans to make a Chapter 11 filing by the end of this month. The pre-packaged bankruptcy will wipe away about two-thirds of its \$1.5 billion in debt by converting more than \$1 billion of it into equity for lenders.

For the city as a whole, the casinos collectively took in \$145.3 million from slot machines, a decrease of nearly 18 percent; and \$67 million at table games, an increase of just under 1 percent.

February is traditionally one of the slowest months of the year in Atlantic City. The state is hoping its legalization of Internet gambling, which could take effect by the end of this year, will provide new revenue and end the decline. □



The Revel, Atlantic City, N.J.'s newest casino.

(AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

business segments did well in the month, with 44 group meetings held there during February.

DeSanctis said the casino

on headline entertainment in its 5,500-seat Ovation Hall concert venue; Alicia Keys and Rihanna are among April's headliners.

Icahn signs confidentiality agreement with Dell

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who is fighting Dell Inc. founder Michael Dell's plan to take the struggling company private, has entered a confidentiality agreement that would give him access to the computer maker's financial records. Michael Dell, who is also Dell's CEO, is planning a \$24.4 billion buyout that would make the Round Rock, Texas, company a

privately-owned business. But Icahn and other investors say the price of \$13.65 per share is too low.

Icahn's company, Icahn Enterprises, has said it holds a substantial stake in the company.

Icahn wants the company to pay a special dividend of \$9 per share, financed with existing cash and new debt, if shareholders reject the buyout offer.

The investor told Dell executives in a recent letter that

if they decline to promise this one-time payout, then he wants the company to combine a shareholder vote on the buyout with its annual election of directors. In that case, Icahn would nominate candidates who would implement the special dividend if they are elected, and Icahn and his company could provide more than \$5 billion in loans to ensure prompt payment of the dividend.

Icahn wrote in his letter to

Dell last week that the PC maker's future is bright, and all shareholders should benefit from that, not just Michael Dell. Icahn is known for buying out-of-favor stocks and boosting them by pressuring or replacing boards of directors, installing new management and other hard-knuckle tactics. Analysts say Icahn's entry into the debate over the deal makes it less likely that shareholders will accept Dell's current buyout offer.

China's auto sales accelerate 19.5% in Jan-Feb

BEIJING (AP) — China's auto sales accelerated in the first two months of this year, rising 19.5 percent over the same period of 2012 in a possible positive sign for an economic recovery.

Automakers sold 2.8 million cars in January and February, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers reported Monday. Total sales, including trucks and buses, rose 14.7 percent to 3.4 million vehicles. That growth was an improvement over 2012's full-year rate of 7.1 percent for

cars and 4.3 percent for vehicles overall.

"We expect cyclical recovery in the Chinese economy to continue in 2013,"

said JP Morgan economist

Haibin Zhu in a report. "The gradual improvement in the macro environment would likely support some moderate growth in auto sales during the year."

Global automakers are looking to China, the biggest market by number of vehicles sold, to drive revenues amid weakness elsewhere.

Sales that grew by double digits in early 2012 decelerated due to an economic slump and ownership curbs imposed by some cities to control traffic and smog. □



A model poses with a new concept car at the Beijing Auto Show. (Handout Photo)

Stocks creep up; Dow rises for seventh day running

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market crept higher Monday, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average to its seventh straight day of gains. Boeing was the Dow's top stock, surging 2 percent. A Boeing executive reportedly said he's confident the aircraft maker has figured out a fix for the battery problems that have grounded the 787 Dreamliner. The last time the Dow rose for seven consecutive days was March 2012. The latest streak began last Tuesday, when the blue-chip index blew past its all-time high, then kept climbing to end the week up 2 percent. On Monday, the Dow rose 50.22 points to end the day at 14,447.29, an increase of 0.3 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 5.04 points, also 0.3 percent, to close at 1,556.22.

The index, the most popular market measure for investment funds, is nine points shy of its all-time closing high reached in October 2007.

The Nasdaq composite added 8.51 points to 3,252.87.

The S&P 500 gains were broad, though slight. Nine of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 rose, led by financial companies. That's a sign many investors believe the market and economy are on solid footing, said Quincy Krosby, market

strategist at Prudential Financial. When the economy picks up, financial firms and companies in other cyclical industries tend to benefit more than others. For the year, the Dow is up 10 percent and the S&P

500 up 9 percent.

The stock market's fast start has prompted some analysts to worry that the rally could quickly fizzle. Although recent economic reports have painted a better picture, the U.S.

economy is still growing slowly. It expanded at an annual rate of 0.1 percent in the final three months of 2012. And Europe remains in a recession.

There were no major economic reports to drive trading on Monday. Later in the week, the government will release figures for the federal budget in February, as well as reports on consumer prices and industrial production. On Friday, the Labor Department said that U.S. employers added 236,000 workers to their payrolls in Feb-

ruary, pushing the unemployment rate down to 7.7 percent, the lowest since December 2008.

In the Treasury market, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.05 percent from 2.04 percent late Friday.

The 10-year Treasury yield began the year around 1.70 percent and has climbed steadily higher since then as worries about a recession have eased. Traders have shifted money out of the Treasury market, lifting yields up.

Also Monday, news that billionaire investor Carl Icahn will get access to Dell's private financial records lifted shares in the computer maker. Icahn is fighting Michael Dell's plan to take the struggling company private for \$24 billion, claiming the purchase price is too low. Dell's stock rose 21 cents to \$14.37. □



Trader Thomas Lyden works at the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Positive news from Boeing and a strong U.S. jobs report helped propel Asian stock markets higher on Monday March 11, 2013, as well as the Dow, which crept higher for a seventh record-setting day in a row.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Oil in holding pattern; pump price down to \$3.70

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil reversed an early decline Monday and finished above \$92 for the first time this month.

Benchmark oil rose 11 cents to end at \$92.06 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The price was below \$91 a barrel during morning trading. Although oil shows a gain of nearly 2 percent over the past three trading sessions, many traders believe

the large supply of oil in the U.S. will keep a lid on the price. Last week the Energy Department said that the nation's supply of crude is 10.3 percent above year-ago levels. And U.S. oil production, at more than 7 million barrels a day, is at the highest level since the late 1990s. Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates, estimates that oil supplies grew another 2.5 million barrels in the week

ended March 8. He also said oil could start to fall toward \$85 a barrel later in the week if U.S. economic data boosts the dollar. A stronger dollar makes oil a less enticing investment for traders using other currencies, since oil is traded in dollars. Pump prices fell slightly over the weekend. The nationwide average for a gallon of gas is \$3.70, down 9 cents from a year ago.

Brent crude, used to price

many kinds of oil imported by U.S. refineries, fell 63 cents to finish at \$110.22 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex:

— Wholesale gasoline fell 5 cents to end at \$3.15 a gallon.

— Heating oil slipped 1 cent to finish at \$2.97 a gallon.

— Natural gas rose 2 cents to end at \$3.65 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

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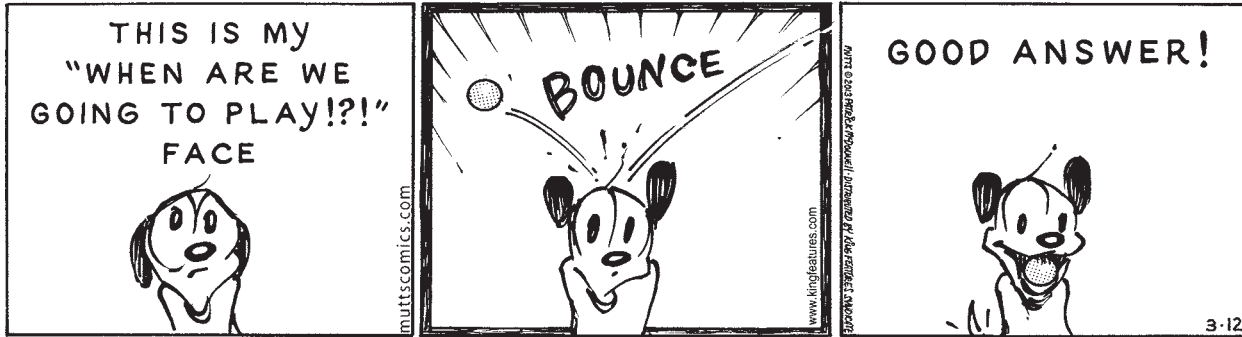
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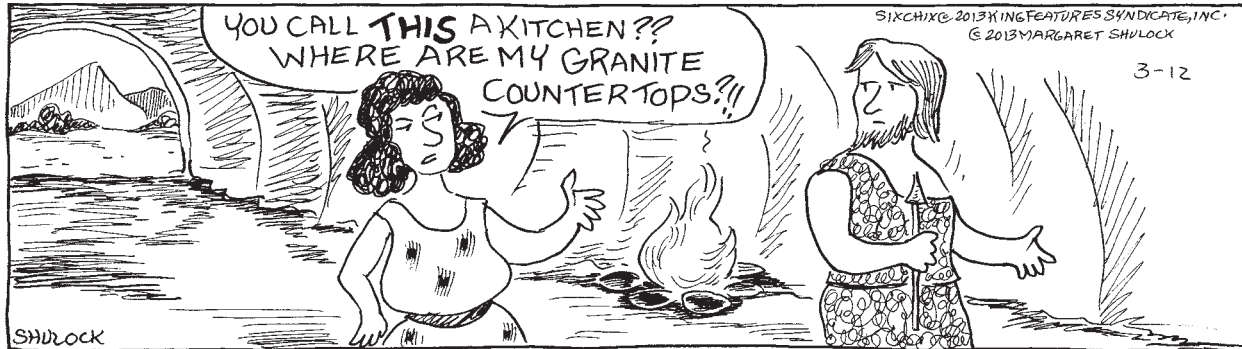


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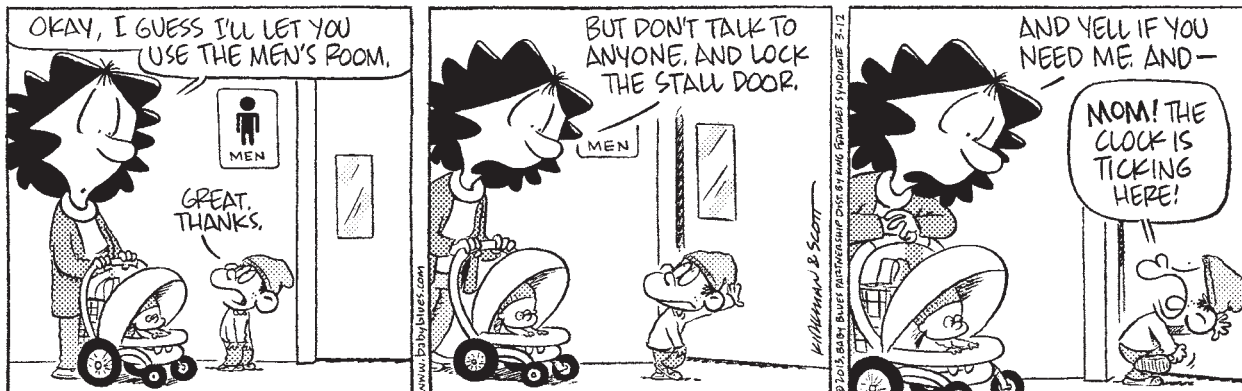
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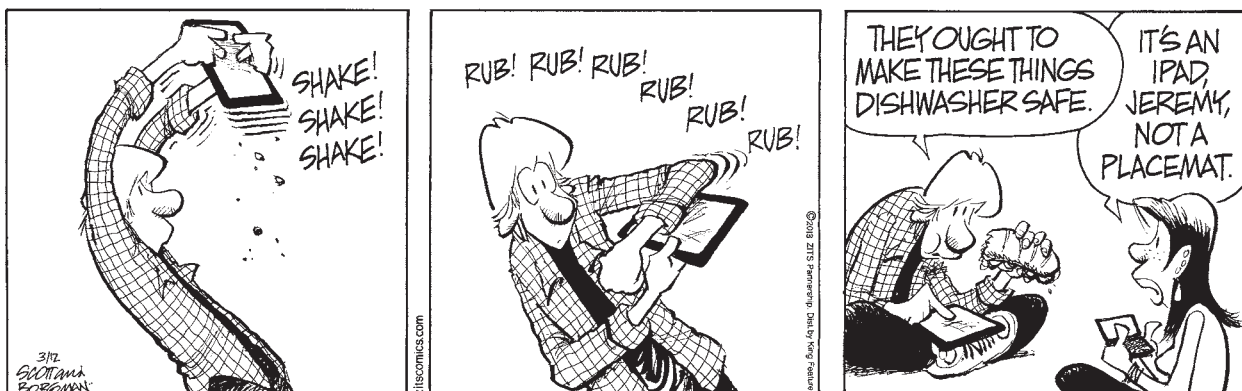
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4		6		9	
2		1				3
	9		5	2	8	
		5			1	
6		2			9	8
		7			2	
			2	9	7	6
1					8	5
	2		8		7	

Difficulty Level ★★

3/12

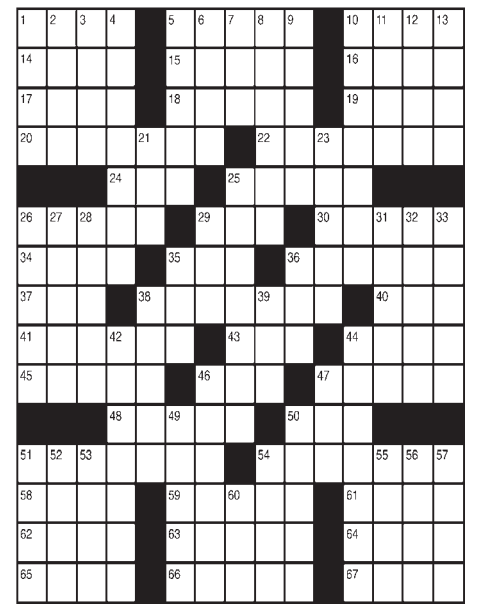
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	8	4	7	5	1	9	3	6
6	9	5	3	8	4	7	2	1
1	3	7	9	6	2	8	4	5
5	1	8	6	3	7	2	9	4
4	7	9	2	1	5	3	6	8
3	2	6	8	4	9	1	5	7
8	6	1	5	9	3	4	7	2
9	5	2	4	7	8	6	1	3
7	4	3	1	2	6	5	8	9

ACROSS

- Pass out cards
- Plank
- Charitable gift
- Wheel shaft
- Refueling ship
- Actor Reiser
- Space agcy.
- Go down smoothly
- Stuffed bread
- ___ toward; having a crush on
- Hit musical film for Liza Minnelli
- Religious sister
- Ibis or heron
- Sum finder
- Drink like a dog
- Late Russian leader Vladimir
- ___ the line; was very obedient
- Sup
- Assert charges before proving
- Hostel
- A bit crunchy, as vegetables
- Tavern order
- Those defeated
- Bacardi product
- Nudge
- ___ on; trample
- Understand
- Mazatlán cash
- Pierced
- Earl Grey drink
- 11/11 honoree
- Meat market employee
- Finished
- Meat shunner
- Give work to
- Cash register
- Sidestep
- ___ Benedict; breakfast order
- ___ May
- Clampett; old sitcom role
- Dueling sword
- Fired a gun
- Actress Delany



Monday's Puzzle Solved

GYM	CARLO	LUCK
NEAR	AVOID	ISLE
UNDO	RELAY	LEAP
SEAFARERS	ISNT	
RIFT	SHE	
STRIFE	PHEASANT	
CRANE	SEOUL	COW
RUNG	COOLS	LOBE
ACT	CORNY	BERLE
MESSAGES	RUINED	
OB	RUNS	
ALDA	TARANTULA	
ROOK	AGAIN	RILL
TOME	TENSE	EMMA
SPED	EDGER	ASS

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3/12/13

DOWN

- Actress Delany



Classifieds

Harvard offers explanation for search of email accounts

RICHARD PEREZ-PENA

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Harvard University on Monday offered its first public explanation for searching staff members' email accounts, saying that the administration had not notified most of those employees because it wanted to protect the one who inadvertently leaked confidential material to the media.

A statement posted online by the university was its first official acknowledgment that it had looked through the accounts of resident deans in September, searching for the source of a leak of information on the cheating scandal that rocked the university last spring. Harvard did not say how many employees' accounts were involved, but people briefed on the matter have said there were 16.

Some professors have reacted angrily to news of the searches, or to the fact that the resident deans were not all notified, calling it a breach of trust.

One leak involved an email from the university's Administrative Board to resident deans, offering guidance on how they should advise students who were accused of cheating. Some professors have questioned why such a relatively minor breach should have prompted a university investigation.

But the statement Monday, attributed to Michael D. Smith, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Evelyn M. Hammonds, dean of Harvard College, said administrators were more concerned about another leak, in which the student newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, recounted a closed-door discussion of the scandal by the Administrative Board.

"While the specific document made public may be deemed by some as not particularly consequential,

the disclosure of the document and nearly word-for-word disclosure of a confidential board conversation led to concerns that other information — especially student information we have a duty to protect as private — was at risk," the deans wrote.

Resident deans live among students in Harvard's residential houses and act as student advisers, and they are also lecturers, meaning that they teach courses but are not on a tenure track to professorship. Each one generally has a personal Harvard email account, and one specifically for the job of resident dean. The deans' statement Monday emphasized that the search was conducted only of the resident dean accounts, not personal ones, and only for the subject line on each message, to determine whether the confidential email had been forwarded.

"No one's emails were opened, and the contents of no one's emails were searched by human or machine," they wrote. The search determined that one resident dean had, in fact, forwarded the email to two students who were accused of cheating and had sought the dean's advice, because the contents of the email directly addressed their situation. □

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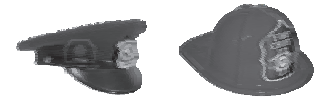
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Mysterious bacterium found in Antarctic lake

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A new form of microbial life has been found in water samples taken from a giant freshwater lake hidden under kilometers of Antarctic ice, Russian scientists said Monday.

Sergei Bulat and Valery Lukin said in a statement that the "unidentified and unclassified" bacterium has no relation to any of the existing bacterial types. They acknowledged, however, that extensive research of the microbe that was sealed under the ice for millions of years will be necessary to prove the find and determine the bacterium's characteristics.

New samples of water retrieved from Lake Vostok earlier this year are expected to be delivered to St. Petersburg in May aboard a Russian ship.

The Russian team reached the surface of the subglacial lake in February 2012 after more than two decades of drilling, a major achievement hailed by



In this Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 photo provided by Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute of St. Petersburg, Russian researchers at the Vostok station in Antarctica pose for a picture after reaching subglacial lake Vostok.

Associated Press

scientists around the world. They touched the lake water Sunday at a depth of 12,366 feet (3,769 meters), about 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) east of the South Pole in the central part of

the continent. Scientists hope the lake might allow a glimpse into microbial life forms that existed before the Ice Age and could have survived in the dark depths of the

lake, despite its high pressure and constant cold — conditions similar to those which also are believed to be found under the ice crust on Mars, Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus.

At 250 kilometers (160 miles) long and 50 kilometers (30 miles) wide, Lake Vostok is similar in size to Lake Ontario. It is kept from freezing into a solid block by the kilometers (miles)-thick crust of ice across it that acts like a blanket, keeping in heat generated by geothermal energy underneath.

Some have voiced concern that the more than 60 tons of lubricants and antifreeze used in the drilling may contaminate the lake, but the Russian researchers have insisted that their technology is environmentally secure. They said water from the lake rushed up the borehole once the drill touched the surface and froze, safely sealing the lubricants from the lake's pristine waters.

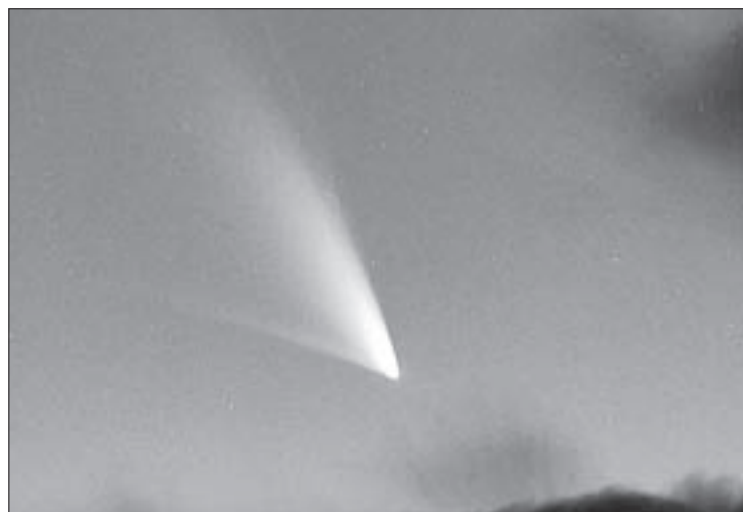
Bulat and Lukin said the research team has done

a meticulous analysis of the samples to differentiate bacteria contained in lubricants from what they hoped could be a trace of new life forms. Initial studies only spotted bacteria associated with the lubricants, but scientists said they eventually found one bacterium that didn't fall into any of the known categories.

The researchers said that the small size of the initial sample and its heavy contamination made it difficult to conduct more extensive research. They voiced hope that the new samples of clean frozen water that are to arrive in St. Petersburg this spring will make it possible to "confirm the find and, perhaps, discover new previously unknown forms of microbial life."

A U.S. team that recently touched the surface of Lake Whillans, a shallower subglacial body of water west of the South Pole, also found microbes. The scientists are yet to determine what forms of bacteria they found. □

Comet posing beside crescent moon in cool photo op



The best viewing days should be next Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12 and 13, when Pan-STARRS appears next to a crescent moon at dusk in the western sky. Until then, glare from the sun will obscure the comet.

Associated Press

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Now's your chance to see the comet that

passed within 100 million miles of Earth last week. Twilight on Tuesday will

provide the best photo op for the comet called Pan-STARRS. It will be visible in the Northern Hemisphere just above the western horizon — right next to a crescent moon.

California astronomer Tony Phillips said the glare of the setting sun may make it difficult to see the comet with the naked eye. But he encourages casual sky gazers to give it a shot.

The moon will provide an easy point of reference.

"All by itself, the slender moon will be super-beautiful. If you can see a comet right beside it ... what a bonus!" he wrote in an email from his home and observatory in the Sierra Nevada.

Remember your binoculars, but be certain not to point them at the setting sun, he warned.

Next week, the comet should be easier to spot.

It will be higher in the western sky and therefore visible for longer once the sun sets. The surrounding darkness, versus twilight, will make it stand out if the sky is clear.

"Not a great comet, but still a pretty good one," Phillips noted.

Pan-STARRS was visible for weeks from the Southern Hemisphere before popping up on the upper half of the globe in recent days. Although billions of year old, Pan-STARRS is making its first-ever cruise through the inner solar system.

The ice ball passed within 28 million miles (45 million kilometers) of the sun Sunday, its closest approach to our star and within the orbit of Mercury.

Phillips said the comet did

not appear to decay during its brush with the sun, even though it encountered 10 times more intense solar rays than what we're used to here on Earth.

Last Tuesday, Pan-STARRS made its closest approach ever of Earth.

The comet's name is actually an acronym for the telescope in Hawaii used to discover it two years ago: the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System.

Astronomers believe Pan-STARRS somehow got kicked out of the Oort Cloud that is full of icy bodies beyond the orbits of Neptune and Pluto, and propelled into the inner solar system.

It will be visible in the Northern Hemisphere for weeks to come.

Have no fear: Pan-STARRS poses no threat to Earth. Neither does comet ISON, which promises to outdo Pan-STARRS. □

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Notorious B.I.G.'s kids to star in animated series

NEW YORK (AP) — The children of late rapper Notorious B.I.G. will star in an animated series about maintaining the hip-hop legend's New York City recording studio. Ossian Media announced Monday that "House of Wallace" will feature 16-year-old C.J. Wallace and 19-year-old T'yanna Wallace. The Notorious B.I.G., born Christopher Wallace, was shot to death in 1997. His character will appear in "spirit" and "guide them

through the adversities they face" when trying to keep the Brooklyn studio open and out of a larger company's hand. The show has yet to sign with a network, though a representative for Ossian says "a few serious networks are in discussion." Notorious B.I.G.'s hits include "One More Chance," "Hypnotize" and "Mo Money Mo Problems." The series will also feature guest appearances from other musical artists. □

Batman's mythology getting new boost from DC



In this image provided by DC Entertainment, Batman's mythology is going to be tweaked by writer Scott Snyder in an 11-part story dubbed "The Zero Year."

Associated Press

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

Batman's transformative years are getting a few new twists. DC Entertainment is going back into Bruce Wayne's past to see how he began his transformation from wealthy socialite to the scourge of Gotham's criminal underworld. Key elements of the character's history are staying the same — the murder of Wayne's parents, for example — says Scott Snyder, the writer of "Batman"

since its relaunch debuted in 2011.

"It's not 'let's redo the origin,'" he said Monday. "It's time for a new story showing how Batman became who he is in the New 52." Snyder said the decision grew out of the success of the first year-and-a-half of DC's New 52, a sweeping reorganization of the publisher's characters that saw many given new origins and costumes that blended those from their first appearances decades ago with contemporary changes.

Snyder said readers will see how the crime fighter found his calling and what challenges he faced when first donning the costume of the Dark Knight.

The augmented origin begins June in the pages of "Batman" in an 11-issue story called "The Zero Year" that is illustrated by Greg Capullo.

"We tried to preserve as much of Batman's history as we could and keep what we could of this history intact," Snyder said of

the change. "It's 'The Zero Year,' the one that no one has told the story of before. We see how Bruce became the Batman, built the cave, faced off with his first super villain."

It's not so much an origin story as it is a view into Batman's formative years.

"We're not going to take apart 'Year One,'" Snyder said, referring to the Frank Miller-David Mazzucchelli four-issue arc that recounted how Wayne began to fight crime after years away.

Instead Snyder, an Eagle Award-winning writer whose other efforts for DC include "Swamp Thing" and "American Vampire," said the "Zero Year" story will give readers new glimpses into the Bob Kane-created character who made his first appearance in the pages of "Detective Comics" No. 27 in May 1939.

"It's time for a new story showing how Batman became who he is in the New 52," said Snyder. "It builds up the mythology." □

Researcher: Zombie fads peak when society unhappy

MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — In the popular American TV series "The Walking Dead," humans struggle to escape from a pack of zombies hungry for flesh. Prank alerts have warned of a zombie apocalypse on radio stations in some U.S. states. And across the country, zombie wannabes in tattered clothes occasionally fill local parks, gurgling moans of the undead. Are these just unhealthy obsessions with death and decay? To Clemson University professor Sarah Lauro, the phenomenon isn't harmful or a random fad, but part of a historical trend that mirrors a level of cultural dissatisfaction and economic upheaval. Lauro, who teaches Eng-

lish at Clemson, studied zombies while working on her doctoral degree at the University of California at Davis. Lauro said she keeps track of zombie movies, TV shows and video games, but her research focuses primarily on the concept of the "zombie walk," a mass gathering of people who, dressed in the clothes and makeup of the undead, stagger about and dance. It's a fascination that, for Lauro, seems unnatural. Uninterested in violent movies or games, Lauro finds herself now taking part in both in an attempt to further understand what makes zombie-lovers tick.

"I hate violence," she said. "I can't stand gore. So it's a labor, but I do it."

The zombie mob originated in 2003 in Toronto, Lauro said, and popularity escalated dramatically in



Costumed actors, promoting the Halloween premiere of the AMC television series "The Walking Dead", shamble along the Brooklyn Bridge while posing for pictures in New York, in this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo.

Associated Press

the United States in 2005, alongside a rise in dissatisfaction with the war in Iraq. "It was a way that the population was getting to exercise the fact that they felt like they hadn't been

listened to by the Bush administration," Lauro said. "Nobody really wanted that war, and yet we were going to war anyway." The mid- to late 2000s also saw an uptick in overall

zombie popularity, perhaps prompted in part by the release of post-apocalyptic movies including "Dawn of the Dead" and "28 Days Later."

As of last year, Lauro said, zombie walks had been documented in 20 countries. The largest gathering drew more than 4,000 participants at the New Jersey Zombie Walk in October 2010, according to the Guinness World Records.

"We are more interested in the zombie at times when as a culture we feel disempowered," Lauro said.

"If you were to ask the participants, I don't think that all of them are very cognizant of what they're saying when they put on the zombie makeup and participate," she said. "To me, it's such an obvious allegory. We feel like, in one way, we're dead." □



In this Monday, April 16, 2012 file photo, actor Stephen Baldwin attends the premiere of "Safe" hosted by Lionsgate, The Cinema Society and TW Steel at Chelsea Cinemas in New York.

Associated Press

Lawyer: Stephen Baldwin to avoid jail in tax case

JIM FITZGERALD,
Associated Press

NEW CITY, New York (AP) —

Stephen Baldwin will avoid jail and will have up to five years to pay \$350,000 in back taxes and penalties, his lawyer said Monday.

Attorney Russell Yankwitt said he and prosecutors tentatively agreed that Baldwin, youngest of the four acting Baldwin brothers, will admit in court this month that he repeatedly failed to file his New York state income tax returns.

Baldwin, who starred in 1995's "The Usual Suspects," is accused of skipping his 2008, 2009 and 2010 returns. When he was arrested in December, the district attorney said Baldwin could face up to four years in prison if convicted. But at Monday's closed-door conference, "The district attorney's office and the judge made it very clear that Mr. Baldwin will not be going to prison," Yankwitt said. "If Mr. Baldwin can't work, he can't pay back his back taxes." Baldwin, 46, of Upper Grandview, New York, was not at the conference.

Prosecutor Anthony Dellicarri confirmed that a tentative agreement had been reached on a plea deal but would not detail the specifics. A message left with the district attorney's office was not immediately returned.

Yankwitt said that if Baldwin

pays back the money within a year, the case will be discharged on the condition he stay out of trouble. If Baldwin doesn't meet the one-year deadline, he will be sentenced to probation and given five years to pay back the money.

The lawyer said the exact amount to be paid was still being negotiated but was "in the ballpark" of \$350,000.

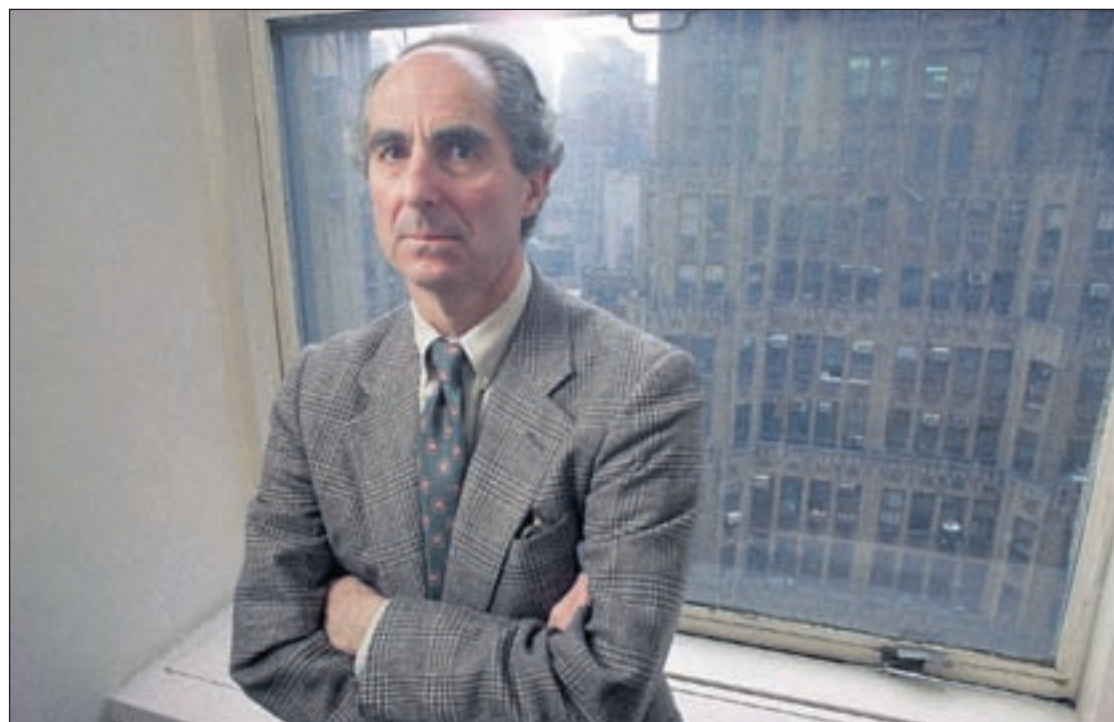
Yankwitt, asked how Baldwin would get the money, replied, "He's doing commercials, he's acting, he's out in the public." Baldwin has been heard on New York radio in recent days in a commercial for a teeth-whitening system.

"The economy is not what it was, and Mr. Baldwin is a faith-based actor, which makes it harder to get roles," said Yankwitt, describing Baldwin as a born-again Christian. "In the past, he did movies that portrayed violence and drugs. He no longer does those types of movies."

Baldwin's brother Alec was a star of TV's "30 Rock," and brothers William and Daniel also are actors. When Yankwitt was asked if they were helping Stephen, he said only, "Mr. Baldwin is thankful for the love and support of his family."

Yankwitt said Baldwin got in trouble because he "relied on others," including an accountant and a lawyer. □

Roth documentary raises new questions at 80



In this March 1993 file photo, novelist Philip Roth poses for a photo.

Associated Press

HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Not everyone believes that Philip Roth has written his last book.

Among the skeptics: Livia Manera Sambuy, co-director of an upcoming PBS "American Masters" documentary about the prize-winning novelist.

"Philip Roth: Unmasked" features extensive interviews Sambuy conducted with Roth, who turns 80 this month, along with commentary from such friends as Mia Farrow and admiring authors such as Jonathan Franzen and Nathan Englander. The film will air March 29 on PBS stations, but also has a weeklong theatrical run — admission is free — starting March 13 at Manhattan's Film Forum. The documentary outlines his life and work, from his childhood in Newark, N.J., to such controversial novels as the ribald "Portnoy's Complaint" to his current status as literary eminence and perennial Nobel candidate. But "Unmasked" leaves out Roth's news-making decision, which he revealed last fall, to stop writing novels. He is presented as an active writer, with shots of him at work in his Connecticut home.

Roth not only says nothing

about wanting to retire, but declares he would be miserable if he did.

"I keep doing it. I never quit," he says. "My worst times are when I'm not writing. I'm prone then to be unhappy, depressed, anxious, and so on."

Through the publication of "Nemesis," which came out in 2010, Roth had been dependably turning out a book a year. But he released no new work in 2011 and by last fall had informed the French magazine Les inRocks that "Nemesis" was the end. A wave of reports followed, and Roth has said he is relieved and delighted to be done. "Someone should have told me about this earlier," he joked about his retirement during a discussion in January with the Television Critics Association.

In a recent email interview, Sambuy acknowledged that she and friends of Roth knew during filming that he had decided to quit. Although the voluntary silence of a celebrated, apparently healthy writer is rare in literary history, Sambuy said that "no one imagined" it "would be such big news." And she doesn't think he's really given up.

"I would have considered adding a postscript had I

actually believed he could ever stop writing," she explained. "As Mia Farrow says in the film: 'Sometimes he's said that that's his last book. But I've heard that, and I don't believe it anymore.' For what it's worth, I don't either."

Roth declined to comment for this story.

The PBS documentary originates from "Roth On Roth," a 52-minute film Sambuy collaborated on with French filmmaker William Karel in 2010. (Additional interviews for "Unmasked" were conducted in 2012). An Italian journalist who has spoken with the author several times over the years, Sambuy says Roth himself suggested the original project in 2009 while they were dining together in New York — a conversation that began with her seeking recommendations for other writers to interview.

"Not only did he offer the advice I was asking for — this is something I was counting on, as he had been very generous and engaged in at least one past similar occasion — but at the end of our conversation he said, 'When are you asking me?'" she recalled. "I thought he was playing cat and mouse, but no, he had already made up his mind." □

Senators Bearing Arms



GAIL COLLINS
© 2013 New York Times

Whenever talk turns to gun control in Congress, lawmakers feel compelled to mention their love of weaponry.

"I'm probably one of the few who have a pistol range in my backyard," Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont said Thursday, as he led a meeting of the Judiciary Committee on gun legislation. "I have an AR-15," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, referring to the nation's best-known assault weapon. "I'm not going to do anything illegally with it," Graham added.

There were no audible sighs of relief from the audience, but I am sure everybody was glad to have the reassurance.

People, do you think Congress is actually going to do anything about gun violence in the wake of the Newtown shootings? Judiciary is going to vote on two big proposals next week: a ban on assault weapons and an expansion of gun purchase background checks. If the Democrats stick together, the bills can pass on a party-line vote. But to go any further, they need Republican support, and there wasn't a whole lot of it in evidence this week.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chief sponsor of the assault weapons ban, seemed less than optimistic. "I want to thank those who are with me," she said. "I don't know that I can convince those who are not, but I intend to keep trying."

She looked exhausted. At one point, she referred to Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut as "Senator Delvanthal."

"Senator Feinstein has been consistent. She is sincere, and she has the courage of her convictions and what more could you ask," Graham said.

This may have been an attempt at consolation. Perhaps he was only being incredibly patronizing by accident.

The public's interest in reducing gun violence may not have abated, but some of the lawmakers seem to be trotting backward. After Newtown, Sen. Joe Manchin, the conservative Democrat from West Virginia, said: "I don't know anyone in the sporting or hunting arena that goes out with an assault rifle." He told CNN that he wanted to create a "dialogue that would bring a total change," adding, "and I mean a total change."

Manchin now says that any-

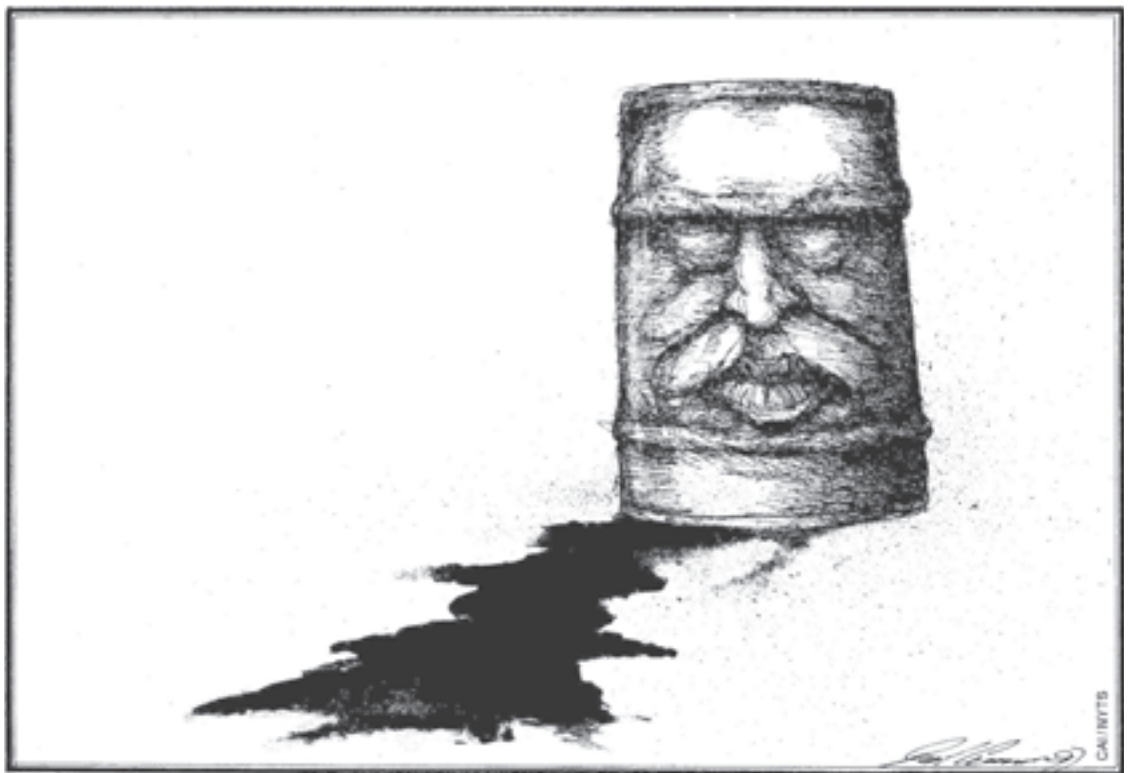
body who took that to mean he was favoring some kind of ban on assault weapons totally misunderstood him.

"I said everything should be on the table," he explained in a phone interview. "Everything is on the table. I don't agree with the things on the table, but they still have the right to put them on."

On the plus side, the Judiciary Committee approved a modest bill raising the penalties for "straw purchasers" — people who buy guns in order to give them to someone barred from making the purchase, like convicted felons or Mexican drug runners. One Republican, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, voted for it. However, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas expressed concern that it would "make it a serious felony for an American Legion employee to negligently transfer a rifle or firearm to a veteran who, unknown to the transferor, suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder."

Personally, I would rather not have American Legion employees negligently transferring guns to anybody. But then I am not trying to run for re-election in Texas without being primaried by the Tea Party.

The best hope for serious change involves fixing the background check law so that people who buy weapons at gun shows, online, in flea markets and other nonstore venues are included. Bipartisan negotiations seemed to fizzle this week, but Manchin, who was among those backing out, expressed confidence that something could still be worked out. And the assault weapons bill might have a little better chance if it was less complicated. (Feinstein's bill lists 157 makes and models of guns that are prohibited.) It might be easier to just go with the part banning magazine clips that allow shooters to fire off 15, 30, 100 or more bullets without reloading. You may be wondering what conceivable argument gun lovers could have about hanging on to those monster bullet clips. For the answer, let us turn to — yes! — Lindsey Graham. The senator from South Carolina wanted to know what people were supposed to do with a lousy two-bullet shotgun "in an environment where the law and order has broken down, whether it's a hurricane, national disaster, earthquake, terrorist attack, cyberattack where the power goes down and the dam's broken and chemicals have been released into the air and law enforcement is really not able to respond and people take advantage of that lawless environment." Do you think Graham spends a lot of time watching old episodes of "Doomsday Preppers?" Does he worry about zombies? That definitely would require a lot of firepower. We should forgive every lawmaker who will go on the record as saying they refuse to support gun control because of the zombie threat. Otherwise, it's pretty inexcusable. □



The NYC Orthodox Surge



DAVID BROOKS
© 2013 New York Times

In Midwood, Brooklyn, there's a luxury kosher grocery store called Pomegranate serving the modern Orthodox and Hasidic communities. It looks like a really nice Whole Foods. There's a wide selection of kosher cheeses from Italy and France, wasabi herring, gluten-free ritual foods and nicely toned wood flooring.

The snack section is impressive. There's a long aisle bursting with little bags of chips and pretzels, suitable for putting into school lunchboxes. That's important because Orthodox Jews spend a lot of time packing school lunches.

Nationwide, only 21 percent of non-Orthodox Jews between the ages of 18 and 29 are married. But an astounding 71 percent of Orthodox Jews are married at that age. And they are having four and five kids per couple. In the New York City area, for example, the Orthodox make up 32 percent of Jews overall. But the Orthodox make up 61 percent of Jewish children. Because the Orthodox are so fertile, in a few years, they will be the dominant group in New York Jewry.

Another really impressive thing about the store is not found in one section but is pervasive throughout. That's the specialty products designed around this or that aspect of Jewish law. There are the dairy-free cheese

puffs in case you want to have some cheese puffs with a meat dish. There are the pre-cut disposable tablecloths so you don't have to use scissors on the Sabbath. There are the specially designed sponges, which don't retain water, so you don't have to do the work of squeezing out water on Shabbat.

Pomegranate looks like any island of upscale consumerism, but deep down it is based on a countercultural understanding of how life should work.

Those of us in secular America live in a culture that takes the supremacy of individual autonomy as a given. Life is a journey. You choose your own path. You can live in the city or the suburbs, be a Wiccan or a biker.

For the people who shop at Pomegranate, the collective covenant with God is the primary reality and obedience to the laws is the primary obligation. They go shopping like the rest of us, but their shopping is minutely governed by an external moral order.

The laws, in this view, make for a decent society. They give structure to everyday life. They infuse everyday acts with spiritual significance. They build community. They regulate desires. They moderate religious zeal, making religion an everyday practical reality.

The laws are gradually internalized through a system of lifelong study, argument and practice. The external laws may seem, at first, like an imposition, but then they become welcome and finally seem like a person's natural way of being.

Meir Soloveichik, my tour guide during this trip through Brooklyn, borrows a musical metaphor from the Catholic theologian George Weigel. At first piano practice seems like drudgery, like self-limitation, but mastering the technique gives you the freedom to play well and create new songs. Life is less a journey than it is mastering a discipline or craft.

Much of the delight in life

comes from arguing about the law and different interpretations of God's command. Soloveichik laughingly describes his debates over which blessing to say over Crispix cereal, which is part corn but also part rice. Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth who is on a tour through New York, notes that Jews are constitutional lawyers: "The Torah is an anthology of argument with a shared vocabulary of common restraint." But there are still obligations that precede choice. For example, a young person in mainstream America can choose to marry or not. In Orthodox society, young adults have an obligation to marry and perpetuate the covenant, and it is a source of deep sadness when they cannot.

"Marriage is about love, but it is not first and foremost about love," Soloveichik says. "First and foremost, marriage is about continuity and transmission."

The modern Orthodox are rooted in that deeper sense of collective purpose. They are like the grocery store Pomegranate, superficially a comfortable part of mainstream American culture but built upon a moral code that is deeply countercultural.

This sort of life involves a fascinating series of judgment calls about what aspects of secularism can safely be included in a covenantal life. For example, Soloveichik's wife, Layalza, was admitted into Harvard, but she went to a religious college, Yeshiva, instead. Then she went to a secular professional school, Yale Law, and now works as an assistant U.S. attorney.

All of us navigate certain tensions, between community and mobility, autonomy and moral order. Mainstream Americans have gravitated toward one set of solutions. The families stuffing their groceries into their Honda Odyssey minivans in the Pomegranate parking lot represent a challenging counterculture. Mostly, I notice how incredibly self-confident they are. Once dismissed as relics, they now feel that they are the future. □

One sure way to cheer up: cheer harder!

BILL MORRIS

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You probably think rabid sports fans are a bunch of lonely, disoriented souls who try to fill the holes in their lives by attaching themselves to a team. And you're probably wrong.

A growing body of scientific research and some compelling empirical evidence suggest that sports fans, even the foam-at-the-mouth variety, are less prone to depression and alienation than people who are immune to such maladies as March Madness and pennant fever.

Case study No. 1 is Den-

no one to whip up the suddenly huge crowds – 49,000 for football, upward of 30,000 for basketball.

"We realized they needed a new superfan," Brogan said. Brogan and some friends began bouncing around ideas for a new Syracuse superfan. They rejected several, including the Carrier Pigeon, because no one wanted to dress up in feathers. Finally they settled on the Dome Ranger, a blue-and-orange-tinted play on the cowboy with the black mask, the white horse and the Indian sidekick.

In the end, the decision

and involved in the game. One of the things I tried to do was feel the momentum before it was actually there. You've got to get fans involved before the game gets hot. My job was to run around the perimeter of the floor and channel energy from the players to the fans. My job was to be the first to stand up and yell." And he was good at it. He played the role, on and off, for the next 30 years. Though he eventually switched from cowboy boots to sneakers, all that running on the floor at basketball games, and up and down the aisles at football

but his right knee still protests every time he climbs a flight of stairs. Yet when it comes to regrets, Brogan is in a league with Edith Piaf. "You abuse your body, but it was a blast," he said. "Every time I feel a twinge in my right knee, I feel joy. I was allowed to express myself physically and emotionally. I created a character. There isn't one thing I'd change about being the Dome Ranger."

This joy, it turns out, is no small thing. In the 1990s, researchers began finding that "highly identified" fans experienced higher levels of arousal – measured by heart rate, brain waves and perspiration – and had fewer bouts of depression and alienation than non-fans. Contrary to popular belief, this research suggests, hard-core fans even have higher levels of self-esteem. "It's a source of validation for their self-conception," said Susan Krauss Whitbourne, a psychology professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who has written extensively about the mental states of sports fans. "For the really true fan, it can become a problem if they shut out other things in life. But the positive side is that it's fun and exciting. It's a cheap high. It's not that they don't have a life."

Whitbourne's writing is laced with terms describing sports fans' behavior, like BIRGing (basking in the reflected glory of a team's success) and CORFing (cutting off a team's reflected failure). A native of Buffalo, she has endured years of disappointment as a Bills fan, though she has lately found herself siding with the nearby New England Patriots.

"It's actually fun to win for change," she said. "I like being happy."

Which brings us to case study No. 2, in Logan, Utah. Pity the visiting basketball player who stepped to the foul line late in a tight game against Utah State. As he gathered himself and prepared to launch his shot, that unfortunate young man noticed something

under the basket: a shirtless fan dressed as Cupid, or maybe as a male stripper or Peter Pan, a 300-pound specimen whose ample midriff seemed to be moving in six directions at once. The sight made it very difficult for the free-throw shooter to concentrate on the task at hand. Which was, of course, the point.

Meet Bill Sproat, 29, a fleshy fixture at Utah State basketball games in recent years. When attending his first game during his freshman year, Sproat had an inspiration. As an opposing player stepped to the foul line, Sproat ripped off his shirt. The place went berserk. Another superfan was born. What possessed Sproat to do it?

"I'm a really good-looking guy," he said, "and I've always liked to be half naked." Over the next several seasons, Sproat, now known as Wild Bill, became a local celebrity in Logan (population 48,174), and he was featured on ESPN and in Sports Illustrated and Playboy. When he visited the ESPN studio in Charlotte, N.C., he had a near religious experience: "I walked into the studio, and the first person I saw was Dick Vitale. I almost started crying."

Sproat, who works with autistic children and is taking time off from college until the fall semester, found that playing the part of Wild Bill helped him deal with his problems. "Nobody believes me, but I have pretty bad anxiety in front of more than 10, 20 people," he said. "But if my shirt's off" – in an arena of 10,000 people – "I know they're looking at me and somehow I can embrace the anxiety and myself."

Sproat tries not to take himself or his fame, or the game, too seriously.

"I just hope I've brought a little fun to it," he said. "Everyone takes things too seriously nowadays. The NCAA makes money off these players, yet the players don't see a dime. Stop trying to regulate them so much. Let them play. Let them be boys." □



Fans cheer during a NCAA East Regional men's basketball game between Syracuse University and University of Oklahoma, in Albany, New York. Research suggests that sports fans, even zealous ones, are less prone to depression and alienation than non-fans.

(G. Paul Burnett/The New York Times)

nis Brogan, a 55-year-old native of Syracuse, N.Y., who has been attending Syracuse University sporting events since he was a boy. He utters the names of the Syracuse football legends Ernie Davis, Jim Brown and Larry Csonka with great reverence. He thinks Jim Boeheim, the longtime men's basketball coach, walks on water.

When the Carrier Dome opened on campus in 1980 and began hosting football and basketball games, Brogan and some other hard-core fans got together to address a problem. The university's former mascot, the Saltine Warrior, had been retired after protests that it was insensitive, and there was

to go with the cowboy instead of the bird was pretty simple. "People relate to people," Brogan said.

Brogan, who has sold insurance and worked in radio and advertising but never attended Syracuse, went to Sears and bought some cowboy duds. At a football game against Rutgers in 1980, the Dome Ranger made his debut. For basketball games, Brogan was a blur, circling the floor nonstop between the playing surface and the stands, whipping the crowd, and himself, into a frenzy. A star was born.

"I had my little towel and my cowboy hat and my mask, and I ran my butt off," Brogan said. "The goal was to get people up

games, took its toll. He developed degenerative arthritis in his right knee and tendinitis in both Achilles tendons. "I used to have to ice my Achilles and my knee after every game, just like Dr. J," he said. Why did he sacrifice his body and so much of his time, without pay, at the altar of college sports?

"When you're not able to play sports anymore, you live your emotions through other people," Brogan said. "Besides, I couldn't sit still and watch a game. For me to put on a hat and a mask allowed me to put on a second persona. I was this superfan, this super-ego character." His Achilles tendons are better now that he is in semiretirement,